

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
3:30 p.m.
Millington 150

Dean Carl Strikwerda called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on February 3, 2009, were approved as posted:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/fas/minutes/20090203.pdf>

II. Minutes of the Special Meeting on Strategic Planning

The minutes of the special meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009, were approved as posted:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/dean/fas/minutes/20090219.pdf>

III. Report of Administrative Officers

Provost Geoffrey Feiss reported that the state budget process has produced results that were better for the College than had been feared, largely due to funds from the federal stimulus package. The proposed budget includes preliminary design funding for ISC III. Provost Feiss stressed that the stimulus funding was a one-time measure and would not insulate the college against difficulties in future budgetary periods. Legislative action to increase the level of in-state enrollment at the college was not taken, but this may be something that the college will face in the future.

In response to questions from the floor, the provost stated that renovations to Tucker hall were not accommodated in the budget and that salary increases were unlikely in the current political climate. He also stated that the effect of the current economic downturn on endowment income may not be felt until FY 2011.

Dean Carl Strikwerda reported that all but five of this year's job searches were now complete and in all but one case so far the college has succeeded in hiring its first-choice candidate. On the subject of strategic planning he reported that he was working with the subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee that is focusing on the first of the Grand Challenges. He also noticed that he considered the recently submitted list of Grand Challenges for strategic planning from Arts and Sciences as a first draft, and encouraged further input on the document.

The dean then introduced the topic of a new joint-degree program being instituted with the University of St Andrews in Scotland, and called forward Sarah Stafford (Economics) and Mike Tierney (Government/International Relations) to explain further and field questions about the program.

IV. Nominations and Elections, A&S Committee Elections

Julie Galambush (Religious Studies) presented the slate of candidates for openings on the Retention, Promotion and Tenure committee, the Educational Policy Committee, and the chairship of the Faculty Affairs Committee (see URL below for the posted list)

With no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and Prof. Galambush announced that on-line voting would commence later that evening.

<http://web.wm.edu/as.committees/nominations/reports/20090303.pdf>

V. Report of the Faculty Research Committee

Reporting for the committee, Bill Cooke (Physics) announced that despite initial uncertainty about the funding of the summer research grant program, the committee was able to award grants to 24 of this year's 40 applicants. Five of these grants were funded by a donation from Susan Matthews, and apart from named grants the dollar amount of the grants was reduced to \$4000 from the usual \$5000 to allow more applicants to receive grants. The committee also decided to end the practice of awarding additional bonus points to past FRC members, in light of the fact that FRC no longer has to consider applications for SSRL's

The committee's report (posted subsequent to the meeting):

<http://web.wm.edu/as/committees/facultyresearch/frcreport2009.pdf>

Prof. Cooke also fielded numerous questions from the floor from faculty members expressing concern about the future of the grant program and its competitiveness as a means of recruiting new faculty. Prof. Cooke noted that as currently constituted, rather than being a faculty wide research-support program, the SRG's are primarily designed to support the activities of faculty who do not have easy access to other sources of funding.

VI. Report of the Faculty Affairs Committee

Reporting for the committee, Barbette Spaeth (Classical Studies) noted that the strategic planning process was ongoing. The Blackboard site the committee has established to collect faculty input on the process was still operational and further input is still welcome. Prof. Spaeth also announced that committee assignments would be made in the coming weeks and that the FAC was seeking volunteers and

nominations for various committee posts. Information on those posts, including estimates of time commitments are available on the FAS website. Interested faculty can contact members of FAC or send a message to askfac@wm.edu.

VII. Discussion of Grade Review Procedures -- Proposed Changes

Dean Sue Peterson (Dean of Undergraduate Studies) presented a proposal of the FAC to amend the faculty's procedures for grade review cases (See link to the text of the policy below). The purpose of the change (naming the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, rather than the Dean of the faculty, as the recipient of appeals beyond the level of department chairs and program heads) is to bring this policy in line with the current practice and to address a discrepancy between the FAS website and the course catalogue.

In discussion Deans Peterson and Strikwerda fielded questions about the frequency of such appeals and about what procedures apply to grading issues that emerge while the semester is in progress.

Following this discussion the proposal was voted on and **approved**.

Text of the policy:

http://web.wm.edu/as/committees/facultyaffairs/documents/Grade_Review_Procedures_6_3_08.pdf

VIII. Report from the Faculty Assembly:

Gene Tracy (Physics/Applied Science) reported on the assembly's latest activities, which included the following: The appointment of Bob Archibald (Economics) to serve as the faculty's representative to a new ad hoc planning group that is meeting to prepare for the next capital campaign; the consideration of changes to the non-discrimination policy to protect transgendered individuals; discussion of a Faculty Compensation Board proposal for a tuition waver benefit; and discussion of strategic planning issues, particularly those relating to Grand Challenges 1 and 4.

IX. Discussion of the Provost Search

Dean Strikwerda asked Prof. Spaeth to come forward on behalf of the FAC to lead a discussion of the ongoing provost search.

Prior to the beginning of this discussion Suzanne Hagedorn (English) moved that the faculty meet in closed session for the duration of the discussion. This motion was voted on and **passed**. Terry Meyers (English) then moved that the discussion proceed with the faculty meeting as a committee of the whole. This motion was

voted on and **passed**. Accordingly, no minutes were kept of the ensuing discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Hutton, Secretary
Associate Professor of Classical Studies
wehutt@wm.edu