

**Minutes**  
**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**  
**Tuesday, September 1, 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**

Larry Ventis (Psychology), speaking for the Nominations and Elections Committee, proposed an addendum to the minutes reflecting the results of the May elections: As a result of a second straight tie in the voting, Brent Owens (Geology) was chosen by coin toss to fill a vacancy for alternate on the Faculty Hearing Committee. Also, Lisa Anderson (Economics) was elected to a 1-year replacement position on the Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee

The amendment to the minutes was voted on and **passed**.

**II. Report of Administrative Officers**

Provost Michael Halleran, speaking before his first Arts and Sciences meeting, told those present that he was making progress in settling into his new position. He has met with a wide range of representatives of different constituencies in the College community, including faculty, students, officials in Richmond, and alumni. He pronounced the health of the College to be strong, with a large and enthusiastic freshman class and a number of talented new faculty members. He noted that ISC III was moving forward, as was the strategic planning process. On the less positive side he warned that new budget cuts were expected presently from the state, and these could potentially be significant. At this point layoffs, furloughs and further freezes cannot be ruled out. He reported on the administration's intentions to negotiate with Richmond over funding methods, including increasing tuition and reducing the in-state/out-of-state student ratio. One possibility is an increase in overall enrollment, which would give us more flexibility on the in-state/out-of-state issue. He also mentioned that the College was making plans to face the threat posed by the H1N1 virus.

In response to a question from John Gilmour (Government), the Provost and Dean Strikwerda addressed concerns over the parking situation in the vicinity of the new Business School building. They noted that the issue was being looked into, and that improvement could be expected when the School of Education moves to its new facilities.

Dean Carl Strikwerda reported first on personnel issues in the Dean's office. Sylvia Tandeciarz (Modern Languages) will be serving as Dean of Educational Policy pro tempore, until the permanent post can be assumed by Teresa Longo

(Modern Languages) who is currently on leave. The search for a replacement for Betty Sandy, who is retiring, is well underway and a decision could be expected in the near future.

Strategic planning efforts are continuing apace, and will be the focus of the upcoming Dean's Advisory Committee retreat. In response to last year's shooting incident at Virginia Tech, work is underway to develop a campus-wide plan for threat assessment and intervention.

The dean noted that despite the budgetary difficulties there was good news to report: last year's hiring season produced 19 excellent new faculty members, including two for whom searches initially cancelled were able to be reinstated. The four remaining searches that were cancelled will be reopened this year. The College has submitted strong applications for two important grant competitions: the Mellon New Directions Fellowship and the Pew Biomedical Fellowship, and the Physics department in concert with the Jefferson Lab has submitted a major grant to the NSF. A feasibility studies has been done for the proposed Arts complex and a new one is being done for the renovation of Tyler Hall.

Phil Daileader (History) asked how soon departments could be assured that they won't have to cancel searches. The dean responded that this assurance would come as soon as possible after the state budget comes out, but that he would err on the side of caution, preferring to cancel searches and re-open them later, if possible, rather than having to go through several rounds of cancellations.

### **III. Report of the Faculty Affairs Committee**

Berhanu Abegaz (Economics), chair of the committee, began with some words of introduction for the benefit of new faculty and the new provost. He noted that FAC has two major charges: (a) to channel, review and assess faculty concerns (curricular, financial, or administrative) and bring them to the faculty and the administration for further deliberation and action, and (b) to coordinate the work of all other A & S committees. He also underscored that the Faculty of Arts and Sciences is the core of the College, and has always had an active and constructive involvement in College governance. He thanked the outgoing committee chair, Margaret Saha (Biology), and outgoing members Anne Rasmussen (Music) and Eric Jensen (Economics/Public Policy) for their service, and recognized new members Sophia Serghi (Music) and Rex Kincaid (Mathematics). Faculty can contact FAC in any way they wish, including sending messages via [askfac@wm.edu](mailto:askfac@wm.edu).

On behalf of the subcommittee for Nominations and Elections, Prof. Abegaz announced the posted slate of candidates for two openings on the Nominations and Elections committee:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/facultyaffairs/reports/20090901.pdf>

No further nominations were received from the floor, so nominations were closed and Prof. Abegaz declared that on-line voting would commence soon after the meeting.

#### **IV. Report from the Faculty Assembly**

Gene Tracy (Physics) announced that the FA's faculty survey was now on-line and available. He strongly encouraged faculty members to take the survey, stressing its importance in the ongoing strategic planning process. He also reported on the Assembly's meeting of August 20, where the draft implementation plan for strategic planning was discussed. Other topics discussed included faculty morale issues, and a possible re-consideration of the traditional end-of-career salary spike.

In response to a question from Larry Ventis (Psychology) about whether the Assembly's draft implementation plan was available on line for faculty consideration, Sarah Stafford (Economics) and Provost Halleran replied that it was not currently, but that when work on it proceeded a little further consideration would be given about how best to promulgate it. Gary DeFotis (Chemistry) expressed the opinion that no change in the policy on end-of-career salary issues should be made precipitously to the disadvantage of faculty approaching retirement. Prof. Tracy responded that the Assembly was aware of that concern and was including it in their considerations.

#### **V. Report from the St. Andrews Curriculum Committee**

On the topic of the proposed institution of a joint-degree program with St. Andrews University in Scotland, Dean Strikwerda commented on progress made over the summer in response to the faculty's decision at last May's meeting that a committee be formed to investigate issues relating to the integration of the program with the College's General Education Requirements. Dean Strikwerda reported that after some delay a committee was now in place, consisting of John Donahue (Classical Studies), Elizabeth Harbron (Chemistry), Graham Ousey (Sociology), Fred Corney (History) and Sarah Stafford (Economics), with ex officio members Laurie Koloski (History/Reves Center) and Sylvia Tandeciarz (Dean of Educational Policy). The institution of the program, pending final approval this fall, is now projected for Fall 2011, instead of Fall 2010.

#### **VI. Introduction of New Faculty**

The following chairs and other department/program representatives introduced the following new faculty:

Lizabeth Allison (Biology) introduced Matthias Leu and Jonathan Allen

Chris Abelt (Chemistry) introduced Jonathan Scheerer

Will Hausman (Economics) introduced Daifeng He and Peter McHenry

Phil Daileader (History) introduced Martin Shanguhiya, Nicholas Popper and Gregor Kranjc

Ron St. Onge (Modern Languages and Literatures) introduced Justin Jesty (not present), Roy Chan, Nicolas Medevielle, John Riofrio, and Jorge Terukina Yamauchi.

Tom Payne (Music) introduced Max Katz

Terry Meyers (Philosophy) introduced Robert Sanchez, Neil Tognazzini and Elizabeth Radcliffe

Tom Linneman (Sociology) introduced Caroline Hanley, Brent Kaup, and Amy Quark

Joan Gavalier (Theater, Speech and Dance) introduced Matt Allar.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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