

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 3:30 p.m.
McGlothlin-Street 20

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

Attendance at the start of the meeting: 52

I. Minutes of the last meeting, December, 1 2009

Dean Strikwerda proposed that the minutes be amended to reflect the fact that that funding for the PLUS program for summer 2010 had been reduced, not eliminated. The minutes, so amended, were approved.

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/minutes/20091201.pdf>

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Provost Michael Halleran reported on the Following issues:

- Charter Day is coming up. Honorary degrees will be awarded to Governor Bob McDonnell, Wayne Kernodle and Martha Nussbaum, and the Jefferson Awards will be presented to Bob Archibald (Economics) and Mark Forsyth (Biology).
- The fourth installment of the campus conversation on William & Mary as a liberal arts university is upcoming, with Martha Nussbaum as guest conversant, speaking on Liberal Arts and Global Citizenship.
- Committee changes: the provost will be working to establish a Faculty Advisory Committee for International Issues and an ad-hoc group on learning spaces. Two existing committees dealing with information technology, TISC and ITAC, will be reconstituted into a single committee: ITSC (Information Technology Steering Committee).
- Student applications are up ca. 3% over last year
- In budget news, the state's budget is in limbo following the change of governors. There are several major uncertainties for W&M for the coming fiscal year:
 - There is an extremely nebulous possibility that we will have a one-time surplus in FY '11 contingent on interpretation of the guidelines for federal stimulus money.
 - It remains to be seen what developments there will be on the tuition front.
 - What the state legislature may do regarding the in-state/out-of-state balance is likewise unclear.
- Some students complained to the provost that the college should have

remained closed all day during the snow emergency on Monday Feb. 2, rather than merely opening 2 hours late. In response to a query from the provost, a show of hands revealed what appeared to be a solid majority of those present who thought that closing for the whole day would have been a bad idea.

In response to a question, the provost asked Gene Tracy (Physics/Applied Science) and Terry Meyers (English) to speak for the Faculty Assembly on the state of the proposal to eliminate the traditional end-of-career salary spike.

Dean Carl Strikwerda reported on the following issues:

- Decisions on tenure have been made: out of 12 cases 10 positive recommendations and 2 negative recommendations will be made to the Board of Visitors. Cases of promotion to full professor are now under consideration.
- New nominations for a Chancellor Professorship and Distinguished Associate Professorships, have been forwarded to the BOV. Sal Saporito (Sociology) has been named as the second Murphy Faculty Fellow.
- Hiring is proving more difficult than last year; whereas last year we were able to hire our first choices in most cases, so far this year only 1 out of 11 searches have been completed
- The RPT memo of 2006 is in the process of undergoing an update. The RPT committee has been experimenting this year with the use of electronic files for tenure and promotion cases and so far it is working well.

The dean also thanked the faculty for their understanding and patience in the face of the difficult funding choices that have had to be made in the current budgetary situation.

III. Report from the Nominations and Elections Committee

Note: due to an oversight this committee report was presented subsequent to agenda item V below.

Larry Ventis (Psychology), presented the results of the December elections: Eric Jensen (Public Policy/Economics) and J. C. Poutsma (Chemistry) were elected to openings on the FAC. The posted results:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/nominations/documents/20091201.pdf>

Prof. Ventis then presented the slate of candidates for three positions on the Faculty Assembly. The posted slate of candidates:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/nominations/documents/20100202.pdf>

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

IV. Report from the Faculty Assembly

Gene Tracy (Physics/Applied Science) reported on the recent activity of the assembly:

- The assembly has had two regular meetings and a mid-year retreat since the last A&S meeting.
- The Faculty Club luncheon is commencing on February 15; the dining room in Miller Business School building will be open from 12-2 pm Mondays and Thursdays.
- The faculty survey results have come out.
- The provost has asked the Executive Committee to provide names for the new college-wide International Advisory Council. The committee will defer to the A&S election process to choose the names from A&S.
- President Reveley will soon be issuing the awaited policy interpretation referring to the inclusion of gender identity and expression as protected categories under the college's non-discrimination policies.
- Development of new policies for the review and evaluation of "alternate faculty positions" (certain faculty in professional schools) continues.
- A working group has been discussing the end-of-career-spike policy.
- Another working group with members of the FA, the FUPC and the CoPaR have been meeting with officials including Sam Jones (Vice President for Finance) and Terry Driscoll (Athletics Director) to gauge the effect of budget cuts on faculty
- Bill Cooke (Physics) is spearheading efforts of a study group with member of FUPC and CoPaR to gather and make accessible data on courseloads, student-faculty ratios, etc.
- The FA's recent retreat was dedicated largely to discussions with the Challenge I strategic planning group

V. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee:

Berhanu Abegaz (Economics) reported that the FAC had been discussing the following issues:

- The amending of the RPT memo; Prof. Abegaz invited feedback on the RPT process (email: askfac@wm.edu)
- The seemingly short deadline set by the registrar's office for next semester's

course schedule

- The strategic planning implementation plan for A&S
- Investment restrictions in optional retirement plans: the FAC has asked the Faculty Compensation Board to look into this.

Prof. Abegaz then introduced a motion from the FAC for adoption of a statement regarding the governance of the joint degree program with St. Andrews University. The posted statement:

http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/educationalpolicy/documents/joint_program_resolution.pdf

In discussion a question was raised as to how many additional students the program would be bringing in. Dean Strikwerda responded that the plan was initially for up to 10 students from each school per year, or 80 students after 4 years. The addition of up to 4 FTE's was planned for to accommodate the increased load.

After discussion the motion was **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

VI. Presentation of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Governance Awards.

Dean Strikwerda presented the first Governance Awards to Eric Bradley (Applied Science & Biology), and Leisa Meyer (History, American Studies & Women's Studies).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm, and the faculty retired to the lobby for a reception honoring Professors Bradley and Meyer.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Hutton, Secretary
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