

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
3:30 p.m.
Andrews 101

Dean Carl Strikwerda called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Attendance at the start of the meeting: 28

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on September 7, 2010, were approved as posted:
<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/minutes/20100907.pdf>

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Reporting on behalf of Provost Michael Halleran, who could not attend, Kate Slevin (Vice Provost for Academic Affairs) noted the following:

- The committee that the provost formed to investigate the issue of student body size has commenced its work and is looking at the tangible and intangible effects of potential increases in the number of students at the college. At this point the provost does not see an increase, or indeed any particular change, a foregone conclusion.
- The Board of Visitors met the previous week. There were no particularly controversial issues discussed but the budget shortfall projected for FY 2012 was of primary concern.
- In response to a question, the vice provost noted that proposals to increase the out-of-state/in-state ratio are under discussion at various levels. The administration is inclined to push for such an increase, and the BoV is not actively opposed, but will have to consider various political ramifications.

Dean Carl Strikwerda reported the following:

- The dean's office is dealing with nominations for distinguished professorships, faculty awards, etc.
- Program reviews will be conducted this year of Psychology, Kinesiology and Health Sciences and Neuroscience. Preparations for these reviews are underway
- A new RPT memo is now under consideration by the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Dean's Advisory Committee and is expected to be approved this year. This year's cases will be conducted under the old (2006) memo.

- The dean concurred with Vice Provost Slevin that the recent Board of Visitors meeting went smoothly and the newly appointed members seem to be good additions.
- Psychology, Biology and other departments and programs are collaborating on a new Vertebrate Animal Care Unit to ensure the proper care of experimental animals.
- The dean invited everyone to visit the lobby of Ewell Hall, which the dean's staff has enhanced, at low cost, with new photographs and artwork.

III. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee

Sophia Serghi (Music) reported that in response to the discussion during last month's meeting about the by-laws of the proposed International Studies Advisory Committee a new ad-hoc committee has been formed to revise the by-laws.

In response to questions, Prof. Serghi noted that the FAC would be finalizing appointments to several committees including the Parking Advisory Committee, which can look into the problematic parking situation on campus. She also noted that the Curriculum Review Steering Committee will be appointed soon and there will likely be a discussion of curricular review at the next A&S meeting.

IV. Report from the Faculty Assembly

Will Hausman (Economics) reported on the following issues:

- At the invitation of the Liaison Committee, Robert Archibald (Economics) and David Feldman (Economics) addressed the Board of Visitors on the topic of their forthcoming book, [*Why Does College Cost So Much?*](#) They conclude that the main thing driving cost increases is the international market for academic labor, rather than any local factors. Their presentation was well received by the board.
- The FA plans to deliver a resolution to President Reveley strongly encouraging him to implement the most inclusive non-discrimination policy possible.
- He discussed the role of the FA in the upcoming curricular review: the Assembly will not organize or control the review or have approval authority over its results, but will be monitoring its progress.
- The FUPC (now consisting of the faculty members of CoPaR plus administrators) is considering a number of PBR's (planning budget requests). Although the college already faces a \$11.5 million deficit in FY 2012, \$15 million dollars in new requests have been received, including requests for 20 new development positions and 58 other new positions.
- The FA will be amending its by-laws to deal more definitively with such issues as the replacement of FA members in mid-term.

- The FA has communicated with the provost on the parking problems and hopes to receive a response of some sort.

V. Report from Nominations and Elections Committee

Debbie Bebout (Chemistry) announced the results of last month's elections:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/nominations/documents/20101005.pdf>

She also announced that the committee would be sending out an invitation to all faculty to nominate themselves and others for upcoming committee posts [faculty can still do so on-line through the following link: <https://forms.wm.edu/946>].

VI. Update on Student Body Size Study Committee

Dean Strikwerda discussed the issues that the recently appointed ad-hoc committee on student body size will be considering. He invited comments and questions that he could refer to the committee. Here is a synopsis of topics discussed, points raised, and questions asked:

- Will the committee consider other ways of organizing the academic year?
- Is cooperation with community colleges a way of serving a larger number of students?
- How much credit does the college receive for Richard Bland College?
- Taking in more juniors as transfer students would allow us to increase numbers without putting the strain on the freshman classes.
- How does the St. Andrews program factor into the possible increase? In the dean's view the students in the programs should be counted in any increase, although there is the political issue that it is possible that none of the St. Andrews students will be from Virginia.
- We should be cautious about adopting solutions for short-term problems (such as the looming deficit) that cannot be easily reversed when conditions improve.
- Is the in-state/out-of-state ratio measured on the basis of the whole student body or on the entering class for any given year? In the dean's view we should move toward measuring it on the basis of the whole student body.
- Should we be concerned about pressures to deliver more academic contact over the internet and via distance learning? Vice Provost Slevin responded that to the extent we can engage in such methods without compromising the principles of our educational mission it will help us demonstrate that we are acting creatively to expand the reach of that

mission. Such methods may offer ways to enhance our own students' learning opportunities.

- Could we consider increasing the number of non-degree-seeking students? The dean responded that the state is concerned most about increasing the degrees, and our graduation rate for entering students is one of our strong points in comparison with our sister institutions.
- We should keep in mind the students' point of view: particularly for first and second year students larger-than-average classes are already a large part of their experience, and increasing the student body will affect them far more than it will affect the faculty.
- We should continue to press the provost to work out in what venues and through what procedures issues of "academic efficiency" will be addressed.
- Are graduate and professional schools at the college struggling with this issue as well, or is the burden of increasing revenue once again being placed solely on the backs of the students and faculty of Arts & Sciences undergraduate programs?

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Hutton, Secretary
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