

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, February 1, 2011
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: 61

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on October 5, 2010, were approved as posted:
<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/minutes/20101207.pdf>

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Provost Michael Halleran congratulated Dean Carl Strikwerda on his recently announced appointment as President of Elizabethtown College. He also recognized Gene Tracy (Physics/Applied Science), who will serve as interim dean in the coming year while a search for Dean Strikwerda's replacement is underway. The search committee will be formed and begin its deliberations this semester.

The provost also reported on the following matters:

- Searches are also well underway for a new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of University Libraries. Faculty will have an opportunity to meet the finalists in forums to be held in coming weeks.
- News from Richmond: There is good news on some fronts. Legislation currently being considered calls for no additional budget cuts beyond what is already expected, recognizes that VMI and W&M have special missions among state universities, does not call for increasing the in-state/out-of-state ratio, and does not put a firm cap on tuition increases. None of the legislation is finalized, however, and it is too early to make any definite statement about what the legislature will and will not do.

In response to a question the provost also noted that the proposed restructuring of employer and employee contributions to the Virginia Retirement System and optional retirement plans does not look destined for passage at the present time.

A question was raised about whether procedures relating to the hiring of non-FTE faculty was subject to university guidelines and if so why some units at the College have the choice of opting out, creating problems of equity. The provost responded that beyond some minimal standards the procedures for such hires were up to the individual units.

Dean Carl Strikwerda said that he would be working with future interim dean Tracy to ensure a smooth transition, and reported on the following issues:

- The Productivity Task force has now met twice and is working on drafting a preliminary report which will be brought to the faculty for discussion.
- In this year's job searches, seven positions have been filled and four others are now under discussion. This leaves us halfway toward filling all the current openings. We've had very good success in getting our top choice of candidates.
- The dean has been working with faculty in Modern Languages to present a proposal to the People's Republic of China to bring to the College a Confucius Institute. This would be equivalent approximately to a \$2 million grant and greatly raise the College's profile in Chinese studies.
- A proposal is being submitted to the Mellon foundation for a grant of about \$900,000.
- The College will again be competing to bring an ACLS/Mellon post-doc to campus.

III. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee

Sophia Serghi (Music) presented a motion to adopt the charge for the Curriculum Review Steering Committee. A draft of the charge had been circulated and discussed at a special meeting of the faculty the prior Thursday, and the FAC had circulated a revised draft with changes emerging from that discussion.

In discussion, numerous faculty members voiced objection to a provision in the charge that barred current department chairs and program heads from serving on the committee. John Oakley (Classical Studies) moved that that provision be struck from the charge. This motion to amend the charge was **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

The amended charge was then voted on and **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Report from the Faculty Assembly

Will Hausman (Economics) reported that the FA had been discussing the following issues:

- The proposed change of the five-year rule for non-tenure-eligible faculty. The plan is to promulgate new general policies and call on individual units to adopt their own specific policies and procedures.
- The Assembly's Committee on Planning and Resources as faculty representatives on the Faculty University Policy Committee had been discussing budget requests. Here are the priorities they will pursue in dealing with these requests:

1. Salary increases for faculty and staff.
2. Investment in fundraising, particularly new positions in Development.
3. Increases in M&O funding
4. Additional resources for the research enterprise, including startup funds, grad student stipends, and research infrastructure.

V. Report from the Nominations and Elections Committee

Debbie Bebout (Chemistry) presented the slate for this month's elections, with positions to be filled on the Faculty Assembly for Areas I and III and for the Procedural Review Committee, Area II. For this last post Prof. Bebout proposed a motion to change the ballot to replace Kathleen Jenkins (Sociology), who had requested to withdraw from the ballot, with Graham Ousey (Sociology). This motion was voted on and **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

With no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and Prof. Bebout announced that on-line balloting would begin after the meeting.

The posted ballot:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/nominations/documents/20110201.pdf>

VI. EPC Motion: New Global Studies Concentration in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Phil Kearns (Computer Science) presented EPC's motion to create a new concentration in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, combining several interdisciplinary programs under one umbrella. Rachel DiNitto (Modern Languages) and Sibel Zandi-Sayek (Art and Art History) came forward to explain the rationale for the change: The chief motives were to increase the integration of the programs, to allow for joint curricular initiatives such as core courses and capstone courses, and to reduce duplication of efforts.

The proposal as posted:

http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/documents/other/ames_proposal_1_2011.pdf

The proposal was voted on and **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

VII. A&S Governance Awards Ceremony

Dean Strikwerda presented this year's Arts & Sciences Governance Awards to Barbette Spaeth (Classical Studies) and Katherine Kulick (Modern Languages), presenting each with a certificate and praising both for their manifold services to the College and the faculty.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm, and the faculty retired to the Andrews lobby for a reception honoring the Governance Award recipients.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Hutton, Secretary
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