

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, October 4, 2011
3:30 p.m.
Commonwealth Auditorium, Sadler Center

Dean Gene Tracy called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

*Attendance at the start of the meeting: **

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on September 06, 2011, were approved as posted:
<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/minutes/20110906.pdf>

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Vice Provost Kate Slevin on behalf of Michael Halleran reported the following regarding last week's meeting with the Board of Visitors:

- the BoV adopted the expenditures as set out in the six year plan.
- The BoV understands the need to raise funds for faculty compensation and to support faculty research.
- the BoV is concerned that during this economic crisis that the Campus not be seen as conducting "business as usual". Board feels, in light of the crisis across the country, that "we have to try to find ways to creatively adapt."

There were no questions for Vice Provost Slevin.

Interim Dean Gene Tracy reported the following:

- Capital Projects are beginning to move forward, including the Tucker renovation and the ISC3 planning monies, now flowing, for architectural drawings etc. Interim Dean Tracy has also been meeting with members of Development to try to ensure that A&S priorities are reflected in the in the campaign.
- Last week's meeting with Senator Mark Warner's staff was productive. Senator Warner is a fan of our institution and understands the importance of education and research within institutions of higher learning. Senator Warner understands the need to protect financial aid, scholarships, Pell grants, and basic research at the College.
- Interim Dean Tracy attended the Deans Advisory Committee retreat where the focus was on the curriculum review. After a morning of general discussion, four focus groups (Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies) met to discuss "thinking forward" 8

to 10 years beyond the curriculum review. Summaries of each group discussion have been compiled into a single document which the DAC will take up at their next meeting. Interim Dean Tracy emphasized the importance of this mid-level curriculum discussion to set clearer priorities and organizing themes, and the importance of engaging with Development as Capital Campaign is underway.

- Last week's meeting with the Board of Visitors was lively, and this year our conversations with the BoV may be especially meaningful in light of Governor McDonnell's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment. The BoV understand the aggressive, ambitious nature of the education offered at the College of William and Mary, and that the College offers many things making our education more expensive. Although it is recognized that significant new resources are needed, it is not clear whether the state will increase its subsidy or if tuition will be raised. The BoV are committed to a high quality education that is more intense and more highly engaged. It is important that we work constructively with the BoV to articulate more clearly how we see ourselves moving forward in difficult economic times. We need to show that we "get it" and are committed to moving forward, to maintaining our commitment to a high level of education, and to creative faculty who are active researchers and scholars. We need meaningful conversations about the role of research in the college (only two Board members are academics and the old stereotypes endure) and how it is integrated into our teaching in meaningful ways.
- David Feldman, Economics, inquired about the BoV "not getting it" and suggested a "bring a Board of Visitor Member to Class" program. To which Interim Dean Tracy reiterated the need for open lines of communication.

III. Nominations and Elections (October election)

Debbie Bebout (Chemistry) reported the following:

- Electronic ballot for the position of secretary of Arts and Sciences would open after the meeting and close at 5:00 pm on Tuesday October 11 (Georgia Irby runs unopposed).
- Professor Bebout solicited electronic nominations to the 5 elected Arts and Sciences Committees and the 4 elected College-wide Committees.

IV. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee

Eric Jensen (Economics and Public Policy) reported that the FAC is engaged in an ongoing discussion to revise the bylaws so the agenda can be submitted electronically and that the FAC welcomes comments on the DAC focus group document.

V. Report from Faculty Assembly

Suzanne Raitt (English) followed up on the meeting with the Board of Visitors, reporting three primary goals:

1. improving communication between the faculty and the BoV, and opening up channels of communication between the FAC and BoV.
2. engaging practically with question of innovation or creative adaptation, trying to come up with proactive strategies of our own to address such questions.
3. strengthening relationships between Development and the faculty by inviting Development members to meet with Departments.

Professor Raitt announced that the minutes of the meeting will be posted to the FAC website, and she invited questions by e-mail.

VI. Update on Curriculum Review

Teresa Longo (Dean for Educational Policy) and Michael Lewis (Mathematics) reported the following:

- They intend to keep the faculty informed on their progress with updates at ensuing A&S meetings. The Committee invite questions and input from the faculty.
- During the June Seminar, the committee chose to propose to the faculty one model with variations (rather than offering two models).
- 10 Focus groups with 5 members each will be launched soon. The committee hope that the focus groups will reflect the diverse academic interests of the faculty.
- A January seminar is scheduled to assess the input from the focus groups and to begin to develop the model for the new curriculum.
- The goal of the new curriculum is to rationalize the system, to integrate diverse classes thoughtfully, and to give the students a stronger sense of academic community and experiences shared throughout their four-year college experience.

Bill Cook (Physics) raised the issue of allowing for different requirements between the three areas (e.g. on the model of different requirements for BA and BS candidates at other institutions).

Marc Sher (Physics) raises the issue of incongruities in the shared experiences across the undergraduate years for students who withdraw but return; also an issue for transfer students.

Suzanne Raitt (English) suggested that the curriculum review should align with other initiatives such as undergraduate research which could lead in transforming

the curriculum. An integrative and collaborative curriculum could possibly relieve tensions between departments and programs.

Deborah Morrison (English) suggested that the curriculum review discussion should also address the philosophical underpinnings of the curriculum. e.g., a discussion of breadth requirements in relation to what we think are the Liberal Arts in the 21st century.

John Riofrio (Modern Languages) inquired about our peer institutions. To which Dean Longo replied that the discussion had occurred but the Committee has found no single specific peer which has combined the ideals of both a Liberal Arts College and a Liberal University.

Gül Ozyegin (Sociology and Women's Studies) requested a change in labeling the ranks of students to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year.

Bob Noonan (Computer Science) suggested that the Committee evaluate our method of assigning credits to incoming students. The College is especially generous, and other institutions (e.g., Williams) imposes a limit on how much AP credit can be applied to a transcript.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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