

Minutes
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Tuesday, October 2, 2012
3:30 p.m.
Tidewater Room B, Sadler Center

Dean Kate Conley called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Attendance at the start of the meeting: 48

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on October 4, 2012, were approved as posted:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/minutes/20120904.pdf>

II. Report of Administrative Officers

Provost Michael Halleran reported on the following issues:

- Preparations have been made for the upcoming visit of the Dalai Lama
- Faculty will receive their expected bonus as a lump sum in their December 1 paycheck. Money budgeted by the College for the bonus will remain in the base budget.
- The Board of Visitors has approved updates to the six-year plan
- A new call for Creative Adaption proposals will be forthcoming soon
- Work is continuing on the phasing out of the end-of-career salary bump
- The provost called on John Griffin (Dean of Undergraduate Studies) to report on progress toward instituting electronic course evaluations. Dean Griffin stated that a pilot project of 50 courses was being run this semester, and evaluation of the results would take place early in the spring semester.

Dean Kate Conley reported the following:

- She had recently spoken to the board of visitors and had emphasized a number of points to them:
 - That American liberal arts colleges were the envy of the world; this should be emphasized as a selling-point for the college.
 - Her support for the ongoing curriculum review process, and the centrality of the liberal arts in that process.
 - That the College cannot support additional growth in student numbers.
 - The need for support for technological innovations to support the College's mission.
 - The need for support for faculty scholarship.
 - That the College needs new resources to maintain its competitive edge.
- A search committee has been formed to select a new Vice President of Development. A&S has two representatives on this committee. The search is necessarily very secretive; a decision is expected before spring break.
- Dean Conley uses the term "Ewell Hall deans" to refer to what were formerly known as "contact deans." This does not mean that their offices are all in Ewell Hall.

- A search is underway for a new Dean of Educational Policy. Dean Conley led the faculty in congratulating outgoing Dean Teresa Longo for her service in that position and noted that Dean Longo would be continuing her work in the dean's office next semester with a special portfolio for overseeing the curriculum review process.
- A merit review committee is close to being formed.

III. Report from the Committee on Nominations and Elections

Paul Manna (Government) presented the slate of nominees for the single post in contention, a position on the International Studies Advisory Committee:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/nominations/documents/20121002.pdf>

As there were no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed, and Prof. Manna announced that on-line balloting would commence soon after the meeting. Prof. Manna also announced that in future years elections for the ISAC would be held at the December meeting, and that this December elections will take place for the Faculty Affairs Committee. He also invited faculty to volunteer themselves and others for openings on A&S committees; an on-line form for doing so will soon be available.

IV. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee

Barbette Spaeth (Classical Studies) reported the following:

- In future summaries of FAC meetings would be posted on the committee's web page (<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/facultyaffairs/index.php>); Berhanu Abeghaz is working with Steve Otto (Director of Communication) to improve the utility of the committee's website.
- In meetings over the past month, the FAC had discussed the makeup of a number of committee, including the search committee for the Dean of Education Policy and the Merit Review Committee; had made recommendations to the dean on the new course release/buyout memo, and had met with the leadership of the Curriculum Review Steering Committee.

V. Report from the Faculty Assembly

Suzanne Raitt (English) reported that the Assembly has met once in the past month and the following were among topics for discussion:

- The Committee on Planning And Resources (CoPaR) has begun considering this year's Planning Budget Requests (pbr's)
- The status of continuing NTE faculty (should, for instance, NTE's have a seat on the FA?)
- The next faculty survey
- The possible merger with Eastern Virginia Medical School
- The phasing out of the retirement bump

VI. Report from EVMS Committee

Provost Halleran reported on behalf of a committee that has been formed to investigate the possible merger between W&M and the Eastern Virginia Medical School:

- The committee was formed in late July in response to an initiative from the presidents of the two institutions.
- No decision has been made on the matter
- The committee has the charge of determining whether there is any compelling value for the College in a merger. If there is none, the committee will not recommend that the merger take place.
- Many meetings with EVMS personnel and with outside consultants have already taken place and are scheduled for the near future
- The committee will present the president with a preliminary report (but probably not a final recommendation) by October 15

In discussion, faculty raised a number of questions and concerns about such matters as: how EVMS's research profile could be raised to be commensurate with that of W&M, whether EVMS's research arm would add anything to what W&M is already doing, and about how faculty can best make their voices heard on this issue.

VII. Report from the Committee on Retention, Promotion, and Tenure

Virginia Torczon (Computer Science) did not make a detailed report on the committee's activities last year, noting that such a report was available on-line:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/rpt/reports/20120606.pdf>

Prof. Torczon did note that almost all RPT dossiers were now being handled on-line through Blackboard, and this was immensely helpful to the committee's efforts.

VIII. Report from EPC Regarding Classical Studies Post-baccalaureate Certificate

Kim Wheatley (English) brought forward a motion of the EPC to approve a new post-baccalaureate certificate program in Classical Studies. Details of the proposal are in the following document:

http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/educationalpolicy/documents/clst_post-bac-proposalFall2012.pdf

Following a brief discussion the proposal the motion was **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

IX. Report from Athletic Policy Advisory Committee

Terry Meyers (English) reported that the committee discussed with the athletics program what was being done to minimize the threat of concussions to student-athletes. The committee expressed its support to the program's efforts in this area, which Prof. Meyers described as exemplary. Prof. Meyers also called on faculty to remember to report midterm grades for any student-athletes who were struggling in their classes, and to report any noticeable changes in the cognitive abilities of student-athletes, as this can be symptomatic of head trauma.

In discussion faculty members raised some concerns, including why athletes are given registration priority (Dean Griffin responded that this was only for freshman currently, and that the policy is being reviewed), and whether the athletic program keeps records of injuries.

X. Update from the Curriculum Review Steering Committee

Teresa Longo (Dean for Educational Policy) and Michael Lewis (Mathematics) reported on the recent activity of the committee, which included the following:

- Discussions over the role to be played by the proposed Center for general education
- Discussions of the feasibility of the prospective curriculum in terms of personnel and budgetary resources: Gene Tracy (Physics/Applied Science) and Bill Cooke (Physics) have been assisting the committee on this topic
- Members of the committee will be going around to visit individual departments and programs to discuss the prospective curriculum; those units that have not scheduled meeting should contact the committee
- More information on the data that the committee has been collecting will be made available on the Blackboard site to which all A&S faculty have access.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Hutton (Classical Studies) (hutton@wm.edu)

Substituting for Georgia Irby, Secretary of the Faculty (glirby@wm.edu)