

MINUTES
Faculty of Arts & Sciences
September 1, 2015
Tidewater B, Sadler Center

Dean Kate Conley opened the meeting at 3:35 PM.

Attendance at the start of the meeting: 57.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes for the meeting of the Faculty on May 5, 2015, were **approved** unanimously by voice vote:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/fas/minutes/index.php>

II. Report from Administrative Officers

a. Provost Michael Halleran

- Announced that SACS (the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) has formally approved the new COLL curriculum.
- Reminded the Faculty that SACS's On-Site Peer Review will be conducted March 22-24, 2016, and they will be particularly interested in the Quality Enhancement Plan: https://www.wm.edu/sites/sacscoc/quality_enhancement_plan/index.php
- With regard to the William & Mary Promise, Provost Halleran affirmed that there is no indication of any decline in the quality of matriculating students and that the College has been able to provide non-trivial salary increases in each of the last three years.
- Reminded the Faculty that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded William & Mary a \$2.6-million grant to establish the W. Taylor Reveley, III Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellows: <https://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2015/mellon-foundation-grant-establishes-reveley-faculty-fellows-endowment.php>
- Reminded the Faculty that late October of this year will mark the public launch of the new capital campaign, with the goal to raise a billion dollars by 2020.
- Announced that the College is preparing for a 2018 celebration of two simultaneous milestones: the hundredth anniversary of the first enrollment of women at the College and the fiftieth anniversary of the first enrollment of African American women at the College.
- Reported that a committee has been assembled to determine how the College might increase opportunities for students in engineering and design; Provost Halleran emphasized that the committee is *not* proposing the creation of an engineering and design school but rather is looking for ways to increase opportunities for students in this areas within our curriculum.
- Announced that a working group headed by Monica Potkay (English) has been formed to investigate how the College might further improve retention and graduation

rates (currently about 96% and 90%, respectively), especially with regard to underrepresented populations.

- Bill Cooke (Physics) asked whether there were any measurable changes thus far in the socioeconomic composition of the student body as a result of the William & Mary Promise. Provost Halleran responded that there are no red flags yet, but there are at least numbers that should be watched in the future: he cited the fact that the percentage of students from underrepresented populations has gone from approximately 30% to approximately 28%.
- Marc Sher (Physics) asked where the College ranks with regard to faculty salaries as a result of the William & Mary Promise, and Provost Halleran responded that the best and most recent data are not yet available at this early stage, but progress has certainly been made.

b. Dean Kate Conley

- Announced that 96% of the Fall 2015 COLL 100 courses have filled, as of August 26th. Dean Conley also mentioned that we need a few additional COLL 150 courses for the upcoming spring semester.
- Informed the Faculty that the Provost has set aside an additional \$180,000 this year for Arts & Sciences' Maintenance and Operations budget.
- Described three projects completed in Arts & Sciences over the summer of 2015:
 1. Steve Otto, Director of Communications for Arts & Sciences, and Paul Showalter, Coordinator for Instruction and Assessment for Swem Library, have replaced the Digital Information Literacy exam with a new, fully-online information literacy course that all entering freshmen have completed before matriculation in Fall 2015:
<http://claresources.wm.edu/coll-100-digital-literacy/>
<http://wmpeople.wm.edu/index.php/site/page/scotto/informationliteracy>
 2. Last spring, the College of William & Mary was one of eight institutions invited to participate in a two-year institute on "signature work." The Educational Policy Committee is now discussing recommendations with those who participated: Lu Ann Homza (Dean for Educational Policy), John Griffin (Dean for Undergraduate Studies), Georgia Irby (Classical Studies), Christine Nemachek (Government), and Lisa Landino (Chemistry).
 3. The Dean's Office and the Office of First Year Experience collaborated to promote the Common Book project for entering students. Dean Homza has planned two debates for September 2, 2015, involving faculty from different disciplines who will discuss how they interpret Oliver Sacks's *The Island of the Colorblind*. Sacks's book will remain the Common Book through 2017, so that it can be integrated more fully into curriculum.
- Dean Conley announced that this year's Homecoming Weekend will include a University Showcase in Tucker Hall from 1:00 to 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 24th, that will highlight faculty involvement in the new COLL curriculum.
- Reported that both she and Dean Homza have recently hosted Jefferson Dinners to discuss the liberal arts.

- Clarified that the figure given in the recent salary memo should read 1.75%, not 1.25%.
- Reminded the Faculty that the flexible merit option begins this year, so faculty members interested in exercising this option should discuss with their chairs this month so that the Dean's Office is informed by September 30th of this year.
- Announced that this academic year's first Lunch with the Dean will take place on September 28th, and these will be continued throughout the year.

III. Introduction of New Faculty

Dean Conley introduced the following new faculty: Elizabeth Losh (English & American Studies), Jessica Paga (Classical Studies), Adwait Jog (Computer Science), Brian Beach (Economics), Priya Mukherjee (Economics), Nicholas Balascio (Geology), Jeffrey Kaplow (Government), Anh Ninh (Mathematics), Eric Swartz (Mathematics), Guannan Wang (Mathematics), Nathan Rabalais (Modern Languages), Aaron Griffith (Philosophy), Chris Conway (Psychology), Patton Burchett (Religious Studies), Faraz Sheikh (Religious Studies), Joseph Jones (Anthropology), and Robert Rose (Director of the Center for Geospatial Analysis).

IV. Report from Faculty Assembly

Eric Chason (Law School) described items on the FA agenda for AY 2015-2016:

- discussion of faculty diversity and especially the retention and recruitment of faculty of color
- the College's new capital campaign—to which all faculty are encouraged to donate, even in amounts as small as \$1
- further improvements to the faculty survey and its use
- consideration of proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook regarding Title IX

V. Report from Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee

Michael Deschenes (Kinesiology) is Chair of both the RPT and the Faculty Affairs Committee this year; at this meeting, he delivered a report for the RPT in place of the FAC report that had been listed on the meeting agenda. Michael reported that the RPT had reviewed a total of thirteen tenure cases in Fall 2014 and that all of them received favorable votes from the committee. In Spring 2015, the RPT also reviewed sixteen cases for promotion; fourteen of those received favorable votes from the RPT, and the committee's recommendations were then confirmed by the Dean and Provost. The remaining two cases that did not receive favorable votes from the RPT and the Dean were also approved for promotion by the Provost. Of the sixteen promotion cases, three were considered under Item 32, which states that "departments may recommend for promotion faculty members with a modest research record if the faculty member has a sustained record of exemplary teaching and service over a long period, usually at least 15 years since award of tenure, and has the support of a commanding majority of the full professors in the department" (see memo from

Dean Conley to the FAS dated October 2, 2012). Michael added that the RPT has been working over the past year to clarify the meanings of “modest” and “exemplary” in Item 32 and also to clarify the instructions for compiling tenure and promotion dossiers on Blackboard.

VI. Report from Center for the Liberal Arts

Gene Tracy (Physics) summarized the contents of the CLA’s August 2015 report:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/center-liberal-arts/reports/2015-cla-report.pdf>

He reported that CLA now has a total of twelve Faculty Fellows, and that the Center organized twenty brownbag discussions during the past academic year, participated in eight department retreats, and funded eleven May Seminars, five January Seminars, and three Faculty Innovation Grants. CLA also invited to campus two visiting speakers, Arlene Davila, anthropologist and Hispanic Studies scholar at New York University, and Jean-luc Doumont, an internationally recognized expert on scientific communication. Gene further announced that Doumont would be returning to speak again at William & Mary on September 17th and 18th of this academic year. Gene reminded the Faculty that CLA will need to transition next year from its current Mellon Grant to permanent base funding. CLA is also working to hire permanent staff, collaborating with Swem Library during its renovation, and preparing for the development of COLL 300 and COLL 400 courses.

VII. Report from Educational Policy Committee

Bill Hutton (Classical Studies) announced that the College will be seeking at least one volunteer from each department and program to be trained in the use of Curriculog, the new software through which faculty will now submit course proposals. Cory Springer of the Registrar’s Office will be meeting on September 3rd with the Council of Chairs and Program Directors (CCPD) to introduce them to the program as well. In the near future, the EPC will be working to clarify the standards for the on-campus version of COLL 300 and also for the Active Learning Requirement. Bill reminded the Faculty that all current GER 6 courses will fulfill the Active Learning Requirement, and he assured the Faculty that the designation of a course as Active Learning will be retroactive: students who completed that same course before it was designated by the EPC as Active Learning will be allowed to count that course toward the fulfillment of the Active Learning Requirement. Bill reported that the EPC will be discussing rules for transfer students in the COLL curriculum, and he announced that Susan Grover, Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs, is leading a group tasked to discuss the assessment procedures for COLL courses. Bill invited the Faculty to send questions or suggestions to either @ epc@wm.edu or hutton@wm.edu.

VIII. Report on 100 Years of Women at William & Mary

Jayne Barnard (Law School) explained that in Fall 2017 through Spring 2019, the College will celebrate three milestones: the 325th birthday of the College; the hundredth anniversary of the first enrollment of women at the College; and the fiftieth anniversary of the first

enrollment of African American women at the College. She encouraged the Faculty to design courses and organize conferences that will dovetail with the themes of this celebration, and she invited the Faculty to propose ideas by writing to ideas@wm.edu. Gul Ozyegin (Sociology) proposed that the celebration should be careful to acknowledge that the first enrollment of women at the College had included only white women, and Jayne responded that the simultaneous celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of African American women at the College could provide an opportunity to acknowledge that distinction.

Dean Conley closed the meeting by reminding the Faculty that she had distributed an e-mail to the fas-d listserv inviting applications from Academic Departments/Schools interested in joining the BA (International Honours) Joint Degree Programme with St Andrews University; applications are due 1 January 2016. (An e-mail from Dean Homza sent one day after this FAS meeting added that “our Joint Programme with St Andrews is an agreement with their School of Arts, which does not include the Sciences.” Those with questions should contact Colleen Kennedy (English) at cjkenn@wm.edu.)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM and followed by a reception in Chesapeake C.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Pope (History, jwpope@wm.edu)
Secretary to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences