

MINUTES
Faculty of Arts & Sciences
February 2, 2016
Tidewater A, Sadler Center

Dean Kate Conley opened the meeting at 3:32 PM.

Attendance at the start of the meeting: 41.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes for the meeting of the faculty on December 1, 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 the Virginia Retirement System has indicated that its Optional Retirement Plan will continue to offer investments with TIAA-CREF and Fidelity, though the College will still investigate other ORP options beyond the program offered by VRS. Suzanne Hagedorn (English) asked when the Faculty will learn of the College's decision to continue or discontinue its participation in VRS's ORP; Provost Halleran responded that the current situation is not an urgent one but that the College will also not be dilatory in its decision.
- Reported that the College is in discussions with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) about whether or not we will need to revisit any of our current standards about the awarding of College credits for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, but major changes are not expected.

b. Dean Kate Conley

- Announced that Georgia Irby (Classical Studies) will be the new FAS Parliamentarian.
- Congratulated the recipients of SCHEV's Outstanding Faculty Awards, as well as the university's Thomas Jefferson Award and Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award.
- Reported that the Diversity Plan is currently being considered by the Council of Chairs and Program Directors (CCPD).
- Announced that space vacated in Morton Hall by the departments of Public Policy, Economics, and Government will be distributed for use by Film and Media Studies, the Global Film Festival, the Digital Humanities, the Center for the Liberal Arts, Sociology, Anthropology, Biology, Classical Studies, Africana Studies, and for the program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. Teresa Longo (Modern Languages and Literatures) asked whether any space in Morton had been allocated for Global Studies; Dean Conley responded that Global Studies was not on the list at present but that she would investigate the matter.

- Reminded the Faculty that in March the College will be visited by representatives of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC):
http://www.wm.edu/sites/sacscoc/archives/sacs_review_reaffirmation/sacs_qep/index.php
Josh Erlich (Physics) asked how the ongoing development of the new COLL curriculum factors into re-accreditation; Dean Conley responded that Susan Grover (Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs) had submitted a report to SCHEV on the COLL curriculum and could present to FAS at a future meeting.
- Reminded the Faculty that the Center for the Liberal Arts has invited applications for new faculty fellows in order to maintain a steady state of twelve faculty fellows after some of the current fellows end their terms of service this year.
- Congratulated the Geology Department for raising over \$100,000 of the more than \$70 million that Arts & Sciences have generated toward the goal of \$140 million; approximately one third of the money raised thus far is for professorships and faculty support. Bill Cooke (Physics) asked what are the main targets of the fundraising campaign besides Arts & Sciences, to which Joel Schwartz (Government) responded that student scholarships and financial aid are among the additional emphases.

III. Report from Faculty Assembly

Eric Chason (Law School) reported that at its November meeting the FA had considered but did not approve changes to the Faculty Handbook related to the Title IX issues that have been part of a recent civil rights investigation. (For details, see the minutes of the FAS meeting on November 3rd, 2015.) Since its November meeting, the FA has continued discussions on this issue with Provost Halleran and with the Personnel Policy Committee (PPC). Some changes are expected to be approved by the FA within the next six weeks. In December, the FA approved a resolution nearly identical to the one approved by the FAS regarding VRS's proposed changes to the ORP. (For details, see the minutes of the FAS meetings on November 3rd and December 1st, 2015). During January, the FA considered a PPC proposal to revise the Faculty Handbook stipulations regarding how the tenure clock will be calibrated for faculty who are hired at All-But-Dissertation status; the FA has referred this matter to the Faculty Affairs Committee for further discussion. Eric announced that the FA will present to the Board of Visitors in early February about recent developments and remaining challenges for Non-Tenure-Eligible Faculty at the College.

IV. Report from Faculty Affairs Committee

Mike Deschenes (Kinesiology) reported that Joel Schwartz (Government) and Mike DiPaola (Education) had recently met with the FAC's ad hoc committee to discuss research about the use of teaching evaluations. Iyabo Osiapem (Africana Studies & Linguistics) and Christy Porter (Psychology) met with the FAC to discuss issues pertaining to Non-Tenure-Eligible Faculty. The FAC also held a discussion with Jeremy Martin (Education), Joel Schwartz (Government), and Monica Potkay (English)

regarding midterm grades and their effect upon graduation rates and grade point averages. Mike encouraged faculty members whose students will not receive any midterm grades (D's or F's) to still submit a blank midterm grade report to that effect for the record. Mike then announced that Dan Cristol (Biology) and Joel Schwartz (Government) have proposed to start a working group to discuss the promotion of undergraduate research.

V. Revisions in language for International Studies Advisory Committee

At the November 2015 meeting of the FAS, Mike Deschenes (Kinesiology) presented a motion to modify the bylaws of the International Studies Advisory Committee (ISAC). The motion proposed to consolidate ISAC and the Study Abroad Committee (SAC) into a single committee and to reduce the size of that committee from 14 members to 9 (6 elected from the Faculty [2 from each area], as well as the Director of the Charles Center or his/her appointed representative, the Director of Global Education or his/her appointed representative, and either the Dean of Education Policy or the Dean of Undergraduate Studies) in order to facilitate regular convening of meetings. At that meeting he also noted that Dean Conley had approved two further changes to the ISAC bylaws as recommended by the FAC: (a) to stipulate that the 6 faculty positions on the committee would be open to election, rather than appointed by the Dean, and (b) to allow non-tenure eligible faculty (NTE's) to serve on the committee. As there was no quorum at the November meeting, the motion was tabled at that time; it was postponed again during the December 2015 meeting to allow for extended discussion of other issues.

At this February 2016 meeting, Mike presented the motion again for a vote of the Faculty. Mike clarified that the new proposal would allow but not require an NTE member on ISAC. In response to several faculty members' concerns that reducing the size of the committee might also constrain its involvement in internationalization at the College, Dean Conley explained that the ISAC bylaws still give the committee a broader role beyond the supervision of study abroad programs. Josh Erlich (Physics) asked what would happen if the proposed changes to the bylaws were not approved at this meeting; Dean Conley responded that the proposal would most likely go back to committee for further revision.

The motion to amend the ISAC bylaws was called to question, and the motion then **passed** by a voice vote.

VI. COLL 300 update from CLA Fellows

Gene Tracy (Physics, Director of the Center for the Liberal Arts) introduced Jerry Hart as CLA's new Associate Director. Gene then outlined recent plans for the on-campus portion of COLL 300: At the October 2015 meeting of the FAS, the Faculty approved an EPC motion stating that "on-campus COLL 300s must address a theme that will be chosen for each semester and must engage with a series of events that feature visitors nominated by the faculty"; in December 2015, CLA then distributed a request for proposed themes. At this February 2016 meeting, Gene announced the following themes for coming semesters:

Spring 2016: Unrest (CLA contacts: Carey Bagdassarian, Paul Mapp)
Fall 2016: Well-Being (CLA contacts: Cathy Forestell, Deborah Morse)
Spring 2017: In/Exclusion (CLA contacts: Bruce Campbell, Paula Blank)
Fall 2017: Ceremony (CLA contacts: Matt Allar, John Riofrio)
Spring 2018: Sustainability (CLA contacts: Georgia Irby, Christine Nemacheck)

Anne Rasmussen (Music) clarified that the Spring 2018 theme moves beyond recycling to include cultural sustainability (e.g., UNESCO's agency on intangible cultural heritage).

For Spring 2016, Robert Davidson will visit campus on March 22nd-24th. For future semesters, the group that proposed the theme will choose one (but not necessarily the only) visitor; Gene explained that CLA envisions as many as three visitors per semester in future semesters but will invite one or two visitors for each of the next two semesters. CLA invites COLL 300 visitor proposals for Fall 2016 (Well-Being) by February 26th; proposals for COLL 300 visitors in Spring 2017 (In/Exclusion) are due March 31st.

<http://www.wm.edu/as/center-liberal-arts/>

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

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