

MINUTES
Faculty of Arts & Sciences
March 1, 2016
Tidewater A, Sadler Center

Dean Kate Conley opened the meeting at 3:31 PM.
Attendance at the start of the meeting: 71.

I. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes for the meeting of the Faculty on February 2, 2016, 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

- Reported positive results from the state legislative session: at present it appears that the College will receive funding for the fourth phase of the Integrated Science Center (ISC4) and also for an arts center, and the Senate's proposed bill includes funding for graduate students.
- Announced that the grand total of incremental spending (after salaries and financial aid) is \$10.8 million for FY 2017.
- Reported that a bill was passed in the 2015 legislative session that will require the College to revisit our current standards about the awarding of College credits for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses, but major changes are not expected (see also the minutes of the FAS meeting on February 2nd, 2016).
- Announced that an ad hoc group of the Faculty has drafted modifications to the Faculty Handbook regarding the standard of proof and the rights of the accused in cases of alleged gender discrimination, sexual misconduct, or racial discrimination; some of these modifications were proposed on the advice of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) at the Department of Education (see also the minutes of the FAS meeting on November 3rd, 2015). The Personnel Policy Committee has approved the modifications, and they have been sent to the Faculty Assembly, where a two-thirds majority will be required for further approval.
- Bill Cooke (Physics) asked whether the state legislature has introduced any further legislation about benefit costs. Provost Halleran responded that they have not and that he does not anticipate any such legislation before the end of the session.
- David Feldman (Economics) asked whether there was any new legislation introduced about the proportions of in-state and out-of-state students. Provost Halleran replied that there was not.

b. Dean Kate Conley

- Reminded the Faculty that the College will soon be entering the fifth year of our reallocation commitment, which means that in order for Arts and Sciences to contribute fully to our goal of consistently funding a pool for salary increases for

faculty, we need to delay hiring again this coming year. She clarified that this does not mean that we are eliminating positions, but it does mean that only a limited percentage of requests for tenure eligible positions will be honored in the coming year.

- Announced that Joel Schwartz (Government) and Dan Cristol (Biology) have formed a new ad hoc working group to discuss the promotion of undergraduate research (see also the minutes of the FAS meeting on February 2, 2016); Dean Conley added that they will collaborate with those involved in the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), with the Center for the Liberal Arts (CLA), and with working groups who are currently preparing the COLL 400 initiative.
- Announced that Susan Grover (Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs) has compiled a report related to the Quality Enhancement Plan for re-accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- Reported that the Dean's Office is now incorporating into the Diversity Plan for Arts & Sciences the feedback received from the Council of Chairs and Program Directors (CCPD); Dean Conley anticipates that the plan will be posted online after Spring Break.

III. Report from Faculty Affairs Committee

Michael Deschenes (Kinesiology) reported that the committee tasked to evaluate best practices for Retention, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) has concluded its work, so their report is now being considered in consultation with Dean Conley and the CCPD. Mike also reported that the FAC had recently heard a report from Susan Grover (Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs) about SACSCOC, a report from the ad hoc committee tasked to assess teaching evaluations, and a report from Arthur Knight (English and American Studies) and Charles Palermo (Art and Art History) about the Digital Humanities. Mike further announced that the six-member International Studies Advisory Committee (ISAC) will be meeting shortly and also that one of the FAC's members has volunteered to work with Bill Hutton (Classical Studies) on the COLL 400 initiative. ISAC's revised bylaws have been posted online:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/international/documents/isac-bylaws-2016.pdf>

IV. Report from Nominations and Elections Committee

Georgia Irby (Classical Studies) announced the following candidates for election (starred names were nominated from the floor):

1) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Faculty Assembly, representing Area II:

John Charles (Kinesiology)

Fred Corney (History)
Danielle Dallaire (Psychology)
John Gilmour (Government)

2) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Procedural Review Committee and Personnel Policy Committee, representing Area I:

Colleen Kennedy (English)
Catherine Levesque (Art and Art History)

3) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Committee on Faculty Awards, Prizes, and Professorships, representing Area II:

Pamela Hunt (Psychology)
Paul Manna (Government)

4) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Committee on Faculty Awards, Prizes, and Professorships, representing Area III:

Chi-Kwong Li (Mathematics)
Qun Li (Computer Science)

5) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee, representing Area II:

Lee Kirkpatrick (Psychology)
David Feldman (Economics)
Leisa Meyer* (History, American Studies, GSWS)

6) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Retention Promotion, and Tenure Committee, representing Area III:

Lizabeth Allison* (Biology)
Jeff Nelson (Physics)
Junping Shi (Mathematics)

7) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Educational Policy Committee, representing Area I:

John Eisele (Modern Languages and Literatures)
Laurie Wolf (Theater Speech and Dance)

8) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Educational Policy Committee, representing Area II:

Tuska Benes (History)
Amy Quark (Sociology)

9) For a three-year term beginning Fall 2016 on the Educational Policy Committee, representing Area III:

Elizabeth Harbron (Chemistry)
Matthew Wawersik (Biology)

V. **Motions from Educational Policy Committee**

On behalf of the Educational Policy Committee, Dean Lu Ann Homza (Educational Policy) submitted the following motions for consideration:

<http://www.wm.edu/as/facultyresources/committees/educationalpolicy/documents/actv-150motions-final.pdf>

These motions all dealt with general education requirements, and in brief their effect would be as follows:

1. To establish a new Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency requirement for all students (similar to GER 6)
2. To abolish the current Active Learning Experience requirement
3. To make it clear that COLL 150s may be offered in languages other than English

Motion 1: “Motion to create a Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency. This would become one of the general education requirements for all students beginning with the entering class of Fall 2016.”

“Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency. Satisfied by two credits in the same creative or performing art.

The purpose of this proficiency is to understand the artistic process. Accordingly, by actively involving students in exercises that require artistic choices, these courses aim for an experience-based understanding of how the artist communicates. A course that satisfies this proficiency requires a student to begin to understand an art at the foundation level through artistic activities involving each of the following: developing their artistic skills; and applying the principles of the art through projects and/or exercises.

As with GER 6, we would accept exemptions based on high school experience (two years of art, creative writing, etc.).”

Jack Martin (English) explained that the previous GER 6 requirements were stringent for exemption based on high school experience and that the EPC does *not* propose to broaden those exemptions for the new Creative and Performing Arts Proficiency. After lengthy discussion, Motion 1 was **approved** by a show of hands.

Motion 2: “Motion to abolish the Active Learning Experience requirement, effective beginning with the entering class of Fall 2016.”

The EPC’s distributed document explained that “‘active learning’ is poorly defined and quickly expands to encompass almost all courses. We believe the creative and performing arts merit special attention, and that all students will benefit from the expressive aspects of these courses.”

After further discussion, Motion 2 was **approved** by a show of hands.

Motion 3: “Motion to add an addendum to the curriculum language for COLL 150 authorizing the teaching of COLL 150s in languages other than English.” The proposed addendum read as follows:

“COLL 150s may be offered to qualified students in languages other than English. These courses must contain the language of instruction in the title. Faculty seeking to teach COLL 150s in languages other than English should first seek EPC approval. Over the course of the Spring semester 2016, EPC will work with the Writing Committee, Modern Languages faculty, and other interested parties to develop appropriate criteria for approving such courses.”

The EPC’s distributed document explained that “the EPC believes that writing-intensive freshman seminars in languages other than English can, for a small number of students who have demonstrated advanced language skills, provide a very worthwhile first-year experience. The purpose of stating the language of instruction in the course title is to make it clear on transcripts that such courses do not satisfy English language requirements for medical school and other post-graduate professional programs.”

Sharon Zuber (English) reported that the Writing Committee had voted 6 to 1 against this proposed addendum, and she maintained that the Writing Requirement should be fulfilled through courses taught in English.

After discussion, the Faculty voted by a show of hands to call to question Motion 3. Voting by paper ballot was requested by multiple faculty members, but the majority of the Faculty voted by a show of hands against the use of paper ballots for this motion.

37 faculty members then voted against the motion, with 36 faculty members voting in favor of the motion. Motion 3 was **not** approved by the Faculty.

Discussion of the FAC response to the resolution regarding standards used by the RPT committee was postponed until the April meeting of the FAS.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

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