

Faculty of Arts & Sciences
March 4th, 2025, 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Tucker 127 A

I. Approval of minutes from meeting on February 2025 FAS meeting and reordering the proposed agenda.

- Minutes approved.
- The Dean's report is moved until later in the meeting

II. Visit from Gerald Bullock (A&S Development)

- The A&S Development team, consisting of three members, has raised \$8.1 M so far this fiscal year, of which \$6.1 M is available for immediate use. Several alumni gifts have been made in honor of departments or faculty.
- Development aims to increase donations through events and initiatives such as One Tribe Day, now in its 12th year. One Tribe Day will promote programs such as Summer Scholars and capitalize on individual pages for each department and programs for donations.
- The Council of Arts and Sciences is also involved in fundraising efforts, with a spring meeting planned to discuss development initiatives and the Future of A&S.
- Priorities for the next campaign are in discussion now, with the campaign's public launch in 2027. The official clock started July 1, 2024, which means that all donations made after that date will be counted towards the campaign goal . The campaign will run for about 9 years.
- Gerald and Suzanne made several trips to visit alumni donors over the past few months, and more are planned.

III. Proposed name change for Arts & Sciences discussion and vote.

- Hannah Rosen and Mattias Leu reported on the results of the Future of A&S survey, Reports from the committee will be released as six separate mini-reports.
 - Results from the fall survey sent out by the Future of A&S Committee show strong support among faculty, staff, and students for renaming the Faculty of Arts & Sciences to the College of Arts & Sciences.
 - There is also support for renaming the Office of Graduate Studies to highlight graduate programs.
 - The Dean argues in favor of the name changes to increase visibility, attract donors, and emphasize Arts & Sciences' central role at the university. Some concerns are raised about potential impacts on graduate programs and losing the emphasis on faculty, but the benefits of renaming may outweigh the risks.
- Subsequent reports from the Future of Arts & Sciences will include responses to a

question on whether interdisciplinary programs should serve as tenure homes, the effectiveness of A&S procedures/policies, the effectiveness of the organizational structure of the Dean's Office, the potential restructuring of A&S into divisions or schools, and whether A&S should have its own mission statement.

- See the report sent last week from the Future of Arts & Sciences Coordinating Committee and the following motion presented by FAC:

“The Faculty Affairs Committee moves that the name of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences be changed to the College of Arts & Sciences.” (Hannah Rosen & Matthias Leu, Future of A&S; J.C Poutsma, FAC)

- Suzanne offers support and rationale for changing Faculty of Arts & Sciences to the College of Arts & Sciences in accordance with the survey results shared by the Future of A&S Committee. One concern raised is that graduate students may be less interested in W&M because we will be known as the College of A&S, but this is not likely based on past admission numbers and peer institutions with graduate programs who use the name College of A&S.
- The motion passes with the majority of aye votes and a small number of nay votes.

IV. **A&S Bylaws discussion and vote**

- Suzanne suggests revising the A&S Bylaws provisions in two phases. The first phase concerns revisions to bring our Bylaws into compliance with the Faculty Handbook which has been revised effective the 1st of July. The second phase is to amend our Bylaws to accommodate the creation of the new school of Computing and Data Sciences, and Physics.
- Discussion of the amendments began at our previous meeting, when we covered amendments regarding committee structure to accommodate Area 1, 2, and 3, and to balance the number of faculty from each of these areas were discussed in the February meeting, in addition to other matters.
- Additional amendments to Section 11, which focuses on creating an Arts & Sciences Personnel Policies Committee are presented.
 - Discussion covers the composition of this committee, including representation from different areas, teaching faculty, and former chairs or program directors.
 - This committee will consist of 6 members elected for staggered 4-year terms, with attention given to balance between areas of disciplines and to include teaching faculty as well as tenured and tenure eligible faculty.
 - The changes to the composition of the A&S Personnel Committee are approved as amended. Section 1 in the Bylaws already requires a balance of areas for all committees in A&S.
- The question is called to vote on the entire revised Bylaws document. The A&S Bylaws are unanimously approved as revised and amended as a whole.
- It's understood that once the Faculty of Arts & Sciences is approved by the Board in April and by SCHEV, the Bylaws will also use the name College of Arts & Sciences

V. **March Elections (Tyler Meldrum, N&E)**

- Slates are announced, there are no nominations from the floor, and the group is reminded that the ballot will be sent tonight and remain open until next Tuesday.

RPT:

Area III

Harvey Langholtz (Psychological Sciences)

Chuck Bailey (Geology)

EPC:

Area II

Tate Twinam (Economics)

Mackenzie Israel-Trummel (Government)

CDEI:

Area II

Michelle Lelievre (Anthropology)

John Lopresti (Economics)

CAS:

(The top three candidates will be elected.)

Doug Young (Chemistry)

Shi Qi (Economics)

Fabricio Prado (History)

Charles McGovern (American Studies/History)

VI. **Report from the Dean (Suzanne Raitt)**

- The faculty funds grant request deadline is March 15.
- Suzanne will hold a Zoom town hall meeting on Friday to discuss the hiring slowdown and graduate admissions slowdown.
 - Twenty-five TTE hires are either contracted or in the final stages. Eleven teaching faculty hires are in the final stages and one is not yet at the final stage. One hundred-ninety-one adjunct authorizations were recently processed. There are twelve pending staff hires and about the same number of searches under

way for Visiting Teaching Faculty. The Provost is allowing all units to present requests for exemptions from the slowdown for mission-critical hires and the A&S Dean team is currently drafting language for such requests. Thank you to all Chairs, Directors, and other faculty and staff for their help in gathering data to support these requests and providing language for these requests.

- The current spending slowdown is due to potential changes in federal funding for universities, including potential impacts to Pell grants or student loans. The slowdown is temporary, expected to last until June 1st, and aims to protect the existing William and Mary community without layoffs. Requests for faculty positions for next year will still be accepted, though fewer hires are expected compared to this past year.
- The Governor's office has not taken specific action on the recent "dear colleague" letter regarding changes to D.E.I. policies beyond asking university boards to review it.
- Graduate student admissions will be affected by potential budget constraints. Nine grad students have been fully admitted and there are 34 more offers pending a response. The decision on whether to admit the remaining students will be made by assessing the mission-critical level target of allocated slots for each program. Self-funded graduate students are still welcome, and their tuition might be used to support the programs. The admission process for initial offers is being paused, but responses to stage two offers are still being considered. Again, the Provost has invited us to request mission-critical exemptions to the admissions slowdown to cover teaching and research assistant needs, and ensure that graduate programs are not weakened by the rescinding of offers that have already gone out or the admission of minimal cohorts. Thank you to all Chairs, Directors, Graduate Studies Directors, and other faculty and staff for their help in gathering data to support these requests and providing language for these requests.

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- All students who are already in the first graduate year and beyond will continue to be supported according to the terms in the package on which they were admitted.

VII. Report from Faculty Assembly (Josh Puzey)

- This report will be covered in the April meeting due to a lack of time.

VIII. Report from FAC (J.C. Poutsma)

- J.C. reports FAC's report was covered in the Bylaws discussion

IX. Adjourn