

Faculty of Arts & Sciences
October 7, 2025, 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Tucker 127 A

I. Approval of minutes from meeting on September 9, 2025

- A motion to approve the minutes from the Sept 9th meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

II. Dean's Remarks (Suzanne Raitt)

- The Board of Visitors approved the changes to the A&S bylaws voted on at our last two meetings, as well as the MS program in Computational Operations Research voted on in the Sept. 2nd FAS meeting and the decision to rename Classical Studies to Ancient Mediterranean Studies
- The BoV will be coming to campus in a few weeks to receive presentations from each of the Deans; as part of this presentation, Dean Raitt will explain that A&S is working on/towards a mission statement
- In line with historical practice, the Provost will join us for a few minutes at the beginning of future FAS meetings to give remarks and take questions
- Dean Raitt has been working on setting up the Personnel Policy Committee; their first task will be to go through the department and program requirements for merit to ensure compliance with the A&S guidelines voted on last spring
- The Dean's Office has received some questions about the impact of the new fees for H1B visas on job searches. In answer to these questions, we should continue to abide by our existing policies which require that we not take immigration status into consideration when making our decisions
- Following up on the subject of SCHEV and productivity benchmarks from our Sept. 2nd meeting: the Dean's Office is working with vulnerable programs and departments to help them hit targets; SCHEV's timeline has slowed, giving us additional time as well
- This will be a hard year financially; A&S is in a good position, but Dean Raitt predicts that we will be asked to make cuts in response to federal funding being withdrawn
- Shout out to Gerald Bullock on the fundraising front; A&S has raised \$3 million so far this year, some of which has gone into the launch of our Democracy Scholars program
- Shout out to A&S faculty for helping to boost W&M's ranking in undergraduate teaching (went from #6 to #2)

III. Alyson Wilson, Vice Provost for Research

- Vice Provost Wilson introduced herself and shared some information about her background and work experience
- She then outlined her key objectives for research at W&M:
 - improve our processes and infrastructure to make them both scalable and resilient
 - focus on four key areas: 1) infrastructure and support systems 2) recognition, incentives, communication 3) policy and process 4) strategic projects

IV. Educational Policy Committee (EPC) Report - Eric Swartz

- Eric Schwartz gave a brief overview on the EPC's work this year; full report was circulated via email.

V. Committee on Faculty Awards, Professorships, and Prizes (CFAPP) Report - Matt Haug

- Matt Haug gave brief overview of the CFAPP's work this year; full report was circulated via email.

VI. Retention, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) Committee Report - Randy Chambers / Carol Sheriff

- Randy Chambers and Carol Sheriff gave a brief report on the RPT's work this year; full report was circulated by email.

VII. Faculty Assembly (FA) Update - Andrea Wright

- The FA is working on the following:
 - Academic Freedom and Faculty Governance
 - Curriculum (W&M Curriculum Committee + 3 Subcommittees)
 - Academic Affairs (SCHEV, Changing Landscape, AI)
 - Planning and Resources (faculty summer research support, enrollment strategy)
 - Faculty Affairs (faculty survey, Workday)
- There will be a survey coming out on summer research.

VIII. Tenure in interdisciplinary programs - Leisa Meyer / Larry Evans

- A motion was made to adopt the recommendations of the report.
- Leisa Meyer provided some context for the recommendations and clarified that the core criteria listed in the report were intended to be general guidelines as to what would be useful for a program to have in place in order to make a case for tenuring individual faculty in the program (i.e. a program would not be required to meet all of these criteria in order to make a successful case)
- During the discussion, some faculty raised concern over what would happen to a person if the unit (department or program) in which they were tenured was eliminated or dissolved. Leisa reported that the committee had considered two possible options: 1) that programs grant tenure but the tenure home remains in a department, or 2) that programs grant tenure and the tenure home is in the College of Arts and Sciences. Most town hall participants favoured the second option.
- A vote on the motion was postponed due to time constraints.

IX. Motion to Amend A&S Bylaws - Suzanne Raitt

- The motion to Amend the A&S Bylaws was postponed due to time constraints.

X. New Business

- Discussion of new business was postponed due to time constraints.

XI. Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.