

Faculty of Arts & Sciences
November 11th, 2025, 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Tucker 127 A

I. Approval of minutes from meeting on October 7, 2025

- A motion to approve the minutes from the October 7th meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved.

II. Director of Federal Affairs (Julia Jester)

- Director Jester introduced herself and her colleagues, Monty Mason and Ashley Hood, and talked about the role of the Government and External Affairs office in relation to A&S.
- The GEA office acts as a liaison with the federal government; Director Jester's role is to advance W&M's mission in DC by interfacing with Members of Congress and government administrators who work on Higher Education policy.
- Director Jester encouraged faculty to reach out to her with suggestions and/or requests for assistance on things such as networking, research and teaching opportunities, and building connections and contacts between campus and DC. She then took questions from faculty.

III. Provost's remarks (Peggy Agouris)

- Provost Agouris provided an overview of what her office is working on in relation to A&S:
 - the upcoming Board of Visitors meeting (November 20th) will be an important one as the Deans of each of the Schools (A&S included) are giving presentations on their respective units
 - the College is reviewing/refreshing the COLL curriculum; Josh Burke is heading up the review and will be setting up a working group composed of faculty, students, alums
 - Provost's office is looking into how the College can better support faculty post-tenure and make the process of promotion more meaningful/rewarding; Iria Giuffrida is currently working on an initial fact-finding/discovery phase report that will be finished by April
 - looking ahead, the Provost's office will also be looking into how the College is supporting our graduate students
- Provost Agouris then took questions from faculty.

IV. Vice Provost for Enrollment Strategy (Lisa Keegan)

- Vice Provost Keegan introduced herself and her position; as Vice Provost for Enrollment Strategy, she will be working with Admissions, Financial Aid, and the Registrar's Office
- She then talked about some of the issues she is focusing on in this role:
 - “demographic cliff”: How can we as a College prepare for/react to the predicted drop in applications? Possible routes include using an out-of-state strategy and/or international student strategy if and when they make sense
 - financial aid and scholarships: How might W&M react to the recent shift in the marketplace where families who can afford to pay higher tuition fees etc. are questioning whether they want to do so
 - student success initiatives: Why aren't our Pell students graduating at the same rate as our non-Pell students and how can we address this gap?
- Vice Provost Keegan then took questions from faculty.

V. Dean's Remarks (Suzanne Raitt)

- Dean Raitt provided an overview of what her office has been working on:
 - she has been having productive advancement meetings (raising more funds than expected)
 - A&S Personnel Policy Committee is looking into whether individual departments and programs are in compliance with the general A&S policies on requirements for merit policies (write to Chair Jack Martin with questions and comments)
 - the College-wide Curriculum Committee is being formed and it will be looking at cross-school degrees, among others
 - the School of Computing, Data Science, and Physics is developing a BA and a BS in Bioengineering; Dean Doug Schmidt will be sending out an email inviting faculty to a meeting for our thoughts and feedback

VI. Committee on Graduate Studies Report (Audrey Horning)

- Audrey was unable to attend the meeting. A motion to postpone discussion of the report to our December meeting was made and seconded. The motion was approved.

VII. November Elections (Sibel Zandi-Sayek, Nominations & Elections)

- The general call for volunteers to serve on A&S committees is still open; please fill out as we have over 25 spots to fill this semester
- The first election will be for the Academic Culture & Values Faculty Fellow. A call for nominations from the floor was made; there were no further nominations. The ballot will be sent via email.

VIII. Motion to Amend A&S Faculty Manual (Peter Vishton, Faculty Affairs Committee)

- A motion was made to add the following language to the A&S Faculty Manual:
 - p. 33 - Changes of the names of departments and programs must be approved by FAS with a recommendation by FAC.
- The logic behind the motion is to reflect current practice while also shifting the work of approving name changes from the EPC to the FAC
- The motion was seconded and an addition motion to call the question was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Motion from the Teaching Faculty Committee: Proposed revisions to the Teaching Faculty Framework (Suzanne Raitt and Jay Watkins)

- Jay explained that the proposed amendments to the first paragraph of the document are intended to streamline procedures and to give Teaching Faculty more time to put together their dossier.
- A motion to adopt the proposed amendment to Section VI.ii was made and seconded. The question was called and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Jay then explained that the proposed amendments to sections VII and IX have to do with service and are also intended to clarify expectations for promotion.
- A motion to adopt the proposed amendments was made and seconded.
- A motion to further amend this section by removing the phrase “and merit scores” in Section IX was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- The question to adopt the revised version of sections VII and IX was called and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Further discussion of tenure in interdisciplinary programs (Leisa Meyer)

- A motion to postpone discussion to the December meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Motion to Amend A&S Bylaws (Suzanne Raitt)

- A motion to postpone discussion to the December meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. New Business

- No new business.

XI. Adjourn

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