

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
27 November 2007
Approved – January 22, 2008

Present: Katie Bragdon, Francie Cate-Arries, Bill Cooke, Mike DiPaola, Larry Evans, Alan Fuchs, Carl Hershner, Colleen Kennedy, Lisa Landino, John Lee, Heather Macdonald, Alan Meese, Terry Meyers, Todd Mooradian, Adam Potkay, Carol Sheriff, Gene Tracy, Tom White, Laurie Wolf

Absent: Liz Canuel, Rip McAdams, Dee Royster

Others in Attendance: Provost Geoff Feiss, Suzanne Hagedorn, Valerie Hopkins (student), Josh Wyner

The meeting was called to order at 15:33 by Alan Meese

Opening announcements by President Meese - Special Faculty Assembly Meeting on December 10, 2007 at 3:30 pm, President Nichol will come to the Faculty Assembly Meeting on December 18, invitations will be coming for a Holiday Reception on December 10 at the President's House.

Motion to move agenda item about the handbook to the end of the agenda was approved.

1. Approval of minutes from October Meeting and November Special Meeting.

Minutes for the October Meeting were approved after adding to the minutes the text of the COPAR motion re COPAR/FUPC, which was not discussed at the October meeting. Minutes for November Special Meeting were approved after adding full names of agencies (rather than acronyms).

2. Report from the Provost.

The Board of Visitors (BOV), which will meet on campus soon, has a continuing interest in risk management and emergency preparedness. The Governor will present his budget on December 17 and it appears that the budget cuts will be permanent cuts to the base. If that remains in the proposed state budget, it will put a strain on the William and Mary budget. The budget planning process is moving forward. Last month, FUPC was given the budget requests from the budget managers. They will report back in early February in terms of setting priorities, enabling the administration to have that information in place before they submit the budget to the BOV in April. Provost Feiss has had a conference call with the Provosts at UVA and VaTech relating to the renegotiation of our peer group. When that happened, SCHEV changed the methodology using a different data set. He has been working with other universities to recommend that SCHEV to set up a task force that will review the whole matter (IPEDS vs AAUP data).

In response to a question regarding emergency preparedness – the current faculty response is higher than it was earlier. In response to a question regarding sales calls to phones in classrooms – contact IT.

3. Report from Standing Committees.

- **Executive Committee** – meeting Dec 5 to set the agenda for the Dec BOV meeting
- **Academic Affairs** – has not met; will have a meeting now that the Internationalization Committee has been established.
- **COPAR** – at the October meeting had a good and productive discussion with Sean Pieri. They will follow-up by discussing the relationship between COPAR and Development. They want to make sure that the issue about the relationship between COPAR and the FUPC is on the agenda for the future. They have been working on the data gathering project, which is now on hold until the Lorne Kuffel's replacement is in place. Questions about the status of the motions about investments in Darfur? The motion regarding the BOV was forwarded to Hank Wolfe, the Chair of the BOV Finance Committee who has asked Wachova about it. President Meese will forward to the William and Mary Foundation Board.
- **Faculty Affairs Committee** – working on handbook revisions
- **FUPC** – continued work on the budget process
- **Liaison Committee** – report on the budget cuts was given to the entire BOV and the Sudan resolution was given to the Academic Affairs Committee.

4. Discussion of Process for Examining Proposed Climate Commitment.

President Nichol has asked the Faculty Assembly to review the proposed climate commitment; he requests that we examine the curricular part and would be happy to received advice on any other aspects. The presidents who sign this commitment sign on behalf of their university.

President Meese made three points regarding the commitment.

1. There is a curricular component that the university's curriculum include a course on climate neutrality and sustainability (1C3).
2. Signing this commitment requires the university to immediately adopt some measures as part of one's effort towards carbon neutrality.
3. There is a requirement that upon signing the agreement, the university agrees within two years to work to become carbon neutral as soon as possible (ASAP is not defined in the document).

The Executive Committee considered it appropriate for the Faculty Assembly to comment on all of this. Various constituencies have commented to President Meese that their goal is to become climate neutral by 2040 (some groups) or 2050 (other groups). We could examine this issue in at least two different ways: 1) have two different committees address the two different aspects or 2) set up an ad-hoc committee. Regarding the petition – some faculty support this agreement, some faculty do not support the agreement, some faculty were not aware of the curricular component of the petition when they signed the petition – basically a range of perspectives.

Much discussion followed. We are pleased that the President sent this to us. We recognize that neither the President nor the Faculty Assembly set curricular requirements, which are the purview of the appropriate faculty bodies. Questions – what does it mean by all students? What would the curricular requirement be – some mandatory training during freshmen orientation? A one-credit course required of all undergraduates? A lecture series open to all William and Mary students (grad and undergrad)? Climate change topics covered in some or all introductory science courses (one week or so)? Mandatory or not? What would the cost of different options be? Depending on this cost, how does this fit with other faculty priorities? Are we already

meeting the curricular requirements? There is ambiguity in what the commitment actually is – we would like more clarity.

Motion to refer the curricular part of the proposed commitment to the Academic Affairs Committee carried.

Discussion about the other aspects of the proposed commitment. What about the budgetary implications? Do we need to consider the budgetary implications if this is a good direction to go? Should we ask Anna Martin to price this out and present to FUPC? Or, given that this is a more global policy matter, perhaps it should not go to FUPC which deals more on the scale of annual budgets. The LEE report includes some costing out of various requirements. SEAC has done some research on this and they could provide this information. What about recycling? Recycling was eliminated several years ago. The Student Assembly has been funding some recycling on campus. What about the recycling bins that students (or others) fill with trash? Regarding the budgetary aspects, we should read the LEE report. President Meese will circulate the LEE committee report (electronically) – send comments to him or others on the Executive Committee, which will discuss a course of action.

5. Discussion of Process for Reviewing New Bias Incident Reporting System.

Received the President's email to this body before Thanksgiving. The Arts and Sciences Faculty Affairs Committee has asked someone from the Diversity Committee to come to the Arts and Sciences Faculty Meeting. If we are going to stay engaged in this issue, we would like to hear from the Diversity Committee. President Meese will invite someone from the Diversity Committee to speak to the Faculty Assembly (including discussion about the reported incidents that lead to the formation of the reporting system) and then we will decide what to do next. We would also like information about how the system is working.

6. Discussion of Process for Reviewing Decision to Alter Format of William and Mary News.

Some faculty are concerned that the paper version of the William and Mary News has been eliminated; they think the WM News is a good publication that presents us well to both internal and external communities. Others are not concerned about the elimination. The elimination of the print version of the WM News was also discussed at the most recent Arts and Sciences meeting. This change happened as a result of reallocation of resources within the Office of University Relations. Concern was expressed that faculty were not consulted about the change. President Meese will invite someone from University Relations to speak to us about the change and the reasons for the change.

7. Consideration of Proposed Changes to the Faculty Handbook, in particular, proposed Sections III. F., III. G and III. J.

There is new material on the website. Section 2 (Administrative Organization including committee terms and faculty members on the committee). Motion to forward this to the FAFAC without discussion by the full Faculty Assembly passed.

Regarding Section F – the major long section that we have been discussing in previous meetings – we seem to be in agreement with the Office of Equal Opportunity with regard to retention of files and notification of accused. Whenever material is retained in a file, the faculty member would be notified and given access; this does not cover conversations that an accuser has with the Office of Equal Opportunity. The other issue is the retention of the file for five years (sufficient time to discern patterns of behavior.) Provost Feiss encouraged all members of the Faculty Assembly to read this section carefully and see if it makes sense to them.

7. There being no other old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Macdonald
Secretary, Faculty Assembly