

Faculty Assembly Meeting
April 28, 2009
Minutes – Approved 9/22/09

Present: Bruce Campbell, Mike DiPaola, Carl Hershner, Katherine Kulick, Lisa Landino, John Lee, Rip McAdams, Leisa Meyer, Todd Mooradian, Adam Potkay, Marc Sher, Carol Sheriff, Kate Slevin, Barbette Spaeth, Gene Tracy, Tom White, Laurie Wolf.

Absent: Larry Evans, Alan Fuchs, Steve Kuehl, Alan Meese, and Greg Smith

Others in Attendance: Provost Feiss, Mary Molineux, and Sean Pieri

Tom White called the meeting to order at 15:35. He welcomed the new Assembly members who will serve during the 09-10 academic year.

1. Motion to adopt the minutes of the March 24 meeting as corrected was approved unanimously.

President White called the annual meeting for the purpose of electing 2009-2010 officers to order at 15:40. Assembly Members elected to represent their units during the 2009-2010 academic year present to vote were:

Todd Averett, Debbie Bebout, Bruce Campbell, Mike DiPaola, Rick Gressard, Will Hausman, Carl Hershner, Katherine Kulick, Lisa Landino, John Lee, Leisa Meyer, Terry Meyers, Todd Mooradian, Adam Potkay, Kate Slevin, Barbette Spaeth, Gene Tracy, Tom White

The following officers were elected by majority vote:

President: Gene Tracy

Vice President: Kate Slevin

Secretary: Mike DiPaola

Motions to accept the nominated slates of committees (Executive Committee, Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs, COPAR) were all approved unanimously.

Adam Potkay was elected chair of the Academic Affairs Committee

Leisa Meyer was elected chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee

Alan Meese was elected chair of COPAR

New Assembly Members introduced themselves to those present. Gene Tracy presented Tom White an engraved desk lamp as a token of appreciation for his service. Tom presented Gene a small token of appreciation for his support.

2. Provost Feiss reported that much attention is being paid to the swine flu epidemic. Decisions must be made concerning study abroad programs in Mexico this summer. A web site will be constructed to provide up to date information on this issue. The College has a pandemic plan in place to deal with such issues. In the 2009 Virginia Terrorism Threat Assessment Report, William and Mary was identified as a known location of anarchist extremism, and a potential terrorist breeding ground. To date that allegation has not consumed too much time, except in the press. There is certain to be more to follow. The Faculty Compensation Board submitted

a report to the Provost on the future of the retirement incentives program. The Provost has not yet reviewed the report. President White promised to get a copy from the Compensation Board for Assembly to review.

3. Mary Molineux was introduced and provided an overview of the newly organized Professionals and Professional Faculty Assembly. She distributed a handout to Assembly members that described their organization and goals.
4. Sean Pieri provided a summary of the Alumni survey conducted for the Development Office. The company that provided the service completed 501 blind interviews of undergrad alumni. Eighty-five percent of the alumni gave college highly favorable ratings. History of the College and beauty of the campus topped the list of connections and affinity. Ninety-four percent of alumni thought they were well informed. Academics were a distant second in their connections to the College. More than half thought the state provided 50% or more of funds, while 4% believed we are a private university. The Alumni Magazine was the most important source of information for those polled. Ninety-four percent were active givers, but less than 30% place W&M in the top three charities to which they donate. Forty-five percent believed other organizations need more money, while 24% believe they can't make a large enough gift to make a difference (\$378 or more). Preserving the historical characteristics of the College and preserving the beauty of the campus were greatest motivators to giving. The summary suggests that we need to move from a preservation mindset to an innovation mindset; that the College provides a leadership role in higher education. We must rebrand annual giving on campus by allowing people to give to specific areas (i.e., scholarships/financial aid, teaching & research, preservation of the campus, etc.). Development needs to build a stronger engagement and interest among alumni and a stronger culture of giving back and gratitude among students. Greater collaboration across campus is essential. Alumni Association, Development, and University Relations need to work more collaboratively. Marketing of the College is a campus-wide responsibility.
5. Katherine Kulick provided an update on the Faculty Survey that will be conducted in the fall. Six general categories will comprise the survey, each containing many questions. The results of the solicitation for new topics from the faculty fell into three categories: family friendly policies, work/study climate issues, issues addressed in the strategic planning process. Those assembled provided input concerning the topics that should be included on the survey. Katherine provided clarifications and institutional history about the survey and the addition of new questions, as well as those that may be dropped as a result of changes that have occurred since they were first included. Thanks were expressed to Katherine for continuing to serve in coordinating this effort.
6. Lisa Landino reported on the feedback she collected from her committee on the proposal for a W&M Faculty Club in the executive dining room of Miller Hall, the new home of the Mason School of Business. The Assembly could contract with the food service provider for a special menu at that facility. The Assembly voted unanimously to approve the idea.

7. The Strategic Planning committee will continue to meet over this summer, as implementation plans are set. The BOV has approved a planning framework. The president has a mandate from the BOV to implement the adopted framework. Faculty members of Strategic Planning Committee expressed concern that faculty have input on the implementation of the framework. The Planning Steering Committee will continue for a time. The Assembly will need to decide on the role of COPAR in that process.
8. No progress has been made on establishing an Inclusive University-Wide, Study-Abroad Committee. The Assembly charged the members of the Academic Affairs Committee to resolve this issue as their first agenda item at the beginning of next semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike DiPaola
Secretary, Faculty Assembly