

Faculty Assembly Meeting
September 22, 2009
Approved Minutes

Present: Todd Averett, Debbie Bebout, Katie Bragdon, Bruce Campbell, Mike Di Paola, Alan Fuchs, Will Hausman, Carl Hershner, Steve Kuehl, Katherine Kulick, Lisa Landino, John Lee, Rick Gressard, Alan Mees, Leisa Meyer, Terry Meyers, Adam Potkay, Kate Slevin, Gene Tracy, Tom White

Absent: Todd Morradian, Barbette Spaeth

Others in Attendance: Michael Halleran, Sam Jones. Mary Molineux, David Kranbuehl, Robert Orwoll, Laurie Sanderson

Gene Tracy called the meeting to order at 15:35.

1. Report VP Finance

Sam Jones provided a presentation on the current fiscal situation. He included assumptions made by the state in preparing this year's budget. The projections were too optimistic, resulting in shortfalls in revenues. Jobs lost during the last fiscal year erased all those added to the economy of the state in the prior four years. The general fund revenues have declined 11 consecutive months (a record). Needless to say, the economy has not improved as predicted. The proposed mandatory one-day furlough will occur in the spring unless the General Assembly eliminates it. If some of the 2011 stimulus money is allocated this year, the budget gap at William & Mary is 3.4 million dollars this fiscal year. State support for our operations has gone from 42.8% in 1980 to 13.7% currently. This necessitates increasing revenue by some means such as increasing tuition, limiting hiring, initiating early "retirement incentives", reducing program/activities, etc. A discussion ensued about the differences in uses between fees and tuition. Alternatives to meeting the shortfall, both short-term and long-term, were discussed.

2. Provost Report

Michael Halleran reported on the recent BOV meeting. He explained that the Assembly recommendation to change the language in the handbook to broaden antidiscrimination language might be addressed by administrative fiat rather than by BOV action. The provost commented on the budget situation, indicating that some faculty searches may be deferred. He predicted that the next couple of years would be a challenge. The BOV will not set the FY 2010-2011 tuition until its April meeting. He expressed optimism that the BOV understands that the revenue issue must be addressed. A question was raised as to whether the ratio of 11 to 1 of students to faculty really represents those full-time faculty positions currently filled. He replied that the dean of arts and sciences provided that figure. He anticipates that a plan to address the budget shortfall will be finalized by mid-October.

3. A report from the FA Liaison Committee regarding the BOV meeting of 9/16-9/18 followed. Kate Slevin reported on her presentation to the entire BOV highlighting the daily work of nine faculty members. She emphasized to the BOV that we are at a tipping point. Either we generate revenues or risk losing the quality of institution. Katherine Kulick added her impressions based on her interactions with BOV members over the three-day period.

4. Discussion of a proposed resolution concerning the College response to State budget cuts ensued. Representatives of VIMS, the School of Education, and graduate A&S urged that the proposed mid-year tuition increase not include graduate students since our faculty priorities have included increased aid to those students. The resolution for a mid-year tuition increase passed 16 yeas with one abstention (see attachment).
5. Report from the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Gene Tracy reported on the ongoing process. The provost added some details about the “conversations” that he will lead around the issue of a “liberal arts university” pursuant to grand challenge one. He urged broad-scale participation in the conversations from the faculty and students. Several comments were made that the university community does not have a sense that Grand Challenge One is the prime challenge and that all the other challenges essentially support that one grand challenge. A unanimous vote of those present supported a motion to endorse Grand Challenge One as the sole challenge of the College in strategic planning and that all other “challenges” support that grand challenge in the planning process. Members urged the provost to articulate this more clearly as he communicates with the university community.
6. A motion to approve minutes of April 28 as corrected passed unanimously.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 17:45.

Approved unanimously 10/27/09

Respectfully submitted,

Mike DiPaola
Secretary, Faculty Assembly