

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2009

Present: Todd Averett, Debbie Bebout, Katie Bragdon, Bruce Campbell, Mike Di Paola, Alan Fuchs, Katherine Kulick, Lisa Landino, John Lee, Rick Gressard, Alan Meese, Leisa Meyer, Terry Meyers, Todd Mooradian, Adam Potkay, Kate Slevin, Barbette Spaeth, Gene Tracy, Tom White

Absent: Steve Kuehl, Will Hausman, Carl Hershner
Others in Attendance: Provost Halleran, Laurie Koloski

The meeting was called to order at 15:45 by Gene Tracy

1. Motion to approve minutes of September 22 was approved unanimously.
2. Provost Halleran reported that the first university-wide conversation on the “Liberal Arts University” will be convened on Thursday afternoon. Three faculty members will begin the conversation with their perspectives. He urged all to join, either in person, or on the blog site. He also reported on the progress of policy development for professional faculty under the new personnel system. Finally, he reported that there is a 3.4 million dollar shortfall in this fiscal year as a result of the recent cuts. The BOV will consider a mid-year tuition increase in conjunction with other cuts, presumably at their next meeting in November. The Provost responded to a question concerning potential growth of the student body. He responded that we have grown over the last few and sees no immediate plan to grow in any substantive way. If we do grow in any significant way, the faculty will be involved in the conversation. If we should grow, we should do it intentionally in concert with a long-term plan. Current undergraduate target admission size is 1400.
3. Report from Faculty University Priorities Committee RE: the budget situation. The committee has requested more information from VP Sam Jones. FUPC decided to add the members of COPAR to their blackboard site in order that members of both groups will have access to the confidential information.
4. Report from the Executive Committee. A meeting with the Rector occurred in which he expressed the desire to stay connected to the faculty. Ideas were exchanged on salient issues. Several executive committee members expressed concerns about the lack of substance of the discussions.
5. Report from the FA Liaison Committee. Kate Slevin reported on the discussion with the BOV Academic Affairs Committee, as well as her overall presentation to the BOV that highlighted the contributions of nine faculty members. The plan for the BOV meeting of 11/16-11/18 is to have representatives of three university groups articulate the impact of the cuts on their students and lost opportunities that result.
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7. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee. It was reported that the president prefers to issue an interpretation of the language dealing with “rights and responsibilities”. Specifically, there

is a concern to protect gender identity and gender expression of members of the university community. Another issue for the committee is a discussion of changes to the Faculty Handbook creating new categories of "clinical" faculty. Business and Law are requesting another category of clinical faculty whose contracts would provide for a status "substantially similar" to tenure. A question as to whether it would apply to clinical faculty in other areas of the university was raised. There is a concern that this category will creep in to Arts & Sciences wholesale. Others articulated that some individuals in Arts & Sciences would benefit from such a system. A careful consideration of all the ramifications of such a dual system should be undertaken. We have essentially been asked to create a new category of faculty at the university. AAUP guidelines have been consulted and have provided valuable insights on this issue.

8. Academic Affairs Committee (Potkay). Motion came from the committee to create a University Education Abroad Committee. It was reported that the committee unanimously approved a motion to create a University Education Abroad Committee. Background was provided. Questions were raised as to the specific charge of the proposed committee. A concern was expressed that the charge of the proposed committee was ambiguous. A motion was made to refer the proposal to the executive committee for clarification of the charge of the proposed motion.
9. Report from COPAR – Alan Meese reported that the proposed website to provide institutional data is not yet functional. There was a concern expressed that when the data become available, they can be relied on to be accurate. Issues such as, how can COPAR work with the faculty compensation board to participate with the financial modeling subcommittee. Issues include discussing class size, financial aid models, etc.
10. Report from the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Gene reported that since the Assembly met last, supporting documentation of the Strategic Plan reflect that there is one grand challenge “Be a leader among liberal arts universities”, with other challenges supporting that grand challenge. Goals and objectives are in the process of being honed by the members of the challenge one subcommittee. Gene reviewed challenge one goals and the priority of objectives established by a survey of the committee. A discussion ensued concerning resources that may be available to fund the goals of the plan. No bold initiatives appear in the plan because we have to first properly resource the current structures and programs.

Meeting was adjourned at 17:35
Approved unanimously November 24, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Mike DiPaola
Secretary, Faculty Assembly