

Faculty Assembly Meeting
Minutes for December 8, 2015
3:30-5:00 pm
School of Education Board Room

Members Present: Eric Chason, Denise Johnson, Terry Meyers, Chris Abelt, Tricia Vahle, Mark Forsyth, Ron Hess, Steve Halliday, Christy Porter, Courtney Harris, Cathy Forestell, Rex Kincaid, Liz Barnes, Chris Gareis, Sophia Serghi

Members Absent: Suzanne Raitt, Patty Roberts, Gul Ozyegin, Chris Petrovits, Vassiliki Panoussi, Simon Stow

Others in Attendance: Michael Halleran, David Armstrong, Jayne Barnard, Tim Wolfe, Suzanne Hagedorn, Cathleen Jenkins

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 by Mr. Chason.

A motion was made and seconded to proceed with the agenda as it stands.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting were approved.

2. Provost's Report and Q&A

Provost Halleran provided a VRS/ORP update – new offerings will come out in January. A parameter was given that TIAA-CREF will stay as an option for any new plan.

3. Quality Enhancement Plan/SACSCOC reaccreditation

David Armstrong presented information on the work of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)/SACSCOC reaccreditation steering committee. The purpose of the QEP is primarily to improve the undergraduate curriculum. The committee has a draft plan that dovetails with the new COLL curriculum. The QEP will attempt to assess how many courses students have available that prepare them to take the COLL 400 courses. The purpose is to help students intentionally prepare for these courses. The deadline to complete the plan is in January before the SACSCOC campus visit in March.

4. Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the enrollment of African American women students (2017) and the 100th anniversary of the enrollment of women students (2018)

Jayne Barnard provided information on the plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the enrollment of African American women starting at Convocation 2017 through Charter Day 2018. Signature activities and events are being planned.

5. Undergraduate Admission Update presentation

Tim Wolfe, Dean of Admissions, shared a snapshot of admissions data for the freshman class and Fall transfer students over the last four years. Information was presented on admission process across the year and the admissions cycle from potential students' applications to

enrollment (application elements, selection process). Some discussion surrounded whether there are indicators of a potential student's mental health in the application process. Cathleen Jenkins discussed the implications for retention and morale of faculty who have children who apply and are not accepted.

6. Proposed amendment to Faculty Handbook (see attachment)

Provost Halleran provided additional information about the proposed amendment that pertains to the tenure timeline for faculty who are hired ABD. The purpose of the proposal is to level the playing field so that the tenure clock starts when the faculty member's degree is conferred.

A motion was made by Liz Barnes to postpone the discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Rex Kincade. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Report and recommendation of Executive Committee

Follow-up to vote from November 17th meeting (see attachment for motion)

A motion from the Executive Committee determined that three members of the FA will meet with the PPC for further discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Standing Committees

a. Academic Affairs: Steve Holliday

The committee is collecting documents about NTEs on issues of retirement, evaluation, service requirements, the nonrenewal process, and work with post-docs.

b. COPAR: Tricia Vahle

A meeting has been scheduled with Dennis Manos for Feb. 5th.

c. Executive Committee: Eric Chason

The Executive Committee meeting focused on the report and recommendation on the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook dealing with harassment and discrimination and other misconduct (see attached motion). The executive committee also provided the names of faculty who will be on the 2019 professor nominating committee.

d. Faculty Affairs: Chris Abelt

Cathy Forestell reported that the faculty survey has been out at this point for about three weeks and has 278 responses so far. The survey will stay open throughout the holidays to give everyone an opportunity to respond.

e. Liaison Committee: Liz Barnes

Liz Barnes yielded her time to new business.

9. Old Business

None

10. New Business

Liz Barnes made a motion to accept the following motion presented by Suzanne Hagedorn on a resolution on the Virginia Retirement System:

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2015, the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System voted to move the administration of all Optional Retirement Plan for Higher Education (ORPHE) accounts to the ICMA Retirement Corporation (ICMA-RC),

WHEREAS this decision may deprive faculty members at William & Mary who enrolled in the Optional Retirement Plan of the option to invest their retirement funds with TIAA-CREF or Fidelity as they presently do,

WHEREAS, VRS did not adequately inform faculty enrolled in the Optional Retirement Plan that it planned to make this major change in plan administration in advance of its decision,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the Faculty Assembly of the College of William & Mary in Virginia, representing the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, the School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Law, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, express our outrage at the VRS's handling of this issue. We respectfully request that our President, Provost, Dean, and the Board of Visitors take whatever steps may be necessary to ensure that the William & Mary faculty who elected to participate in the Optional Retirement Plan can have continued access to TIAA-CREF and Fidelity to handle their retirement investments, including setting up an independent retirement system, as the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University and George Mason University have already done.

Rex Kincaid seconded the motion.

Cathy Forestell made a motion to strike the word "outraged" from the motion and replace with the words "dismayed and concerned", Chris Gareis seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

The President adjourned the meeting at 5:05.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Johnson