

**Faculty Assembly Meeting
Minutes for January 30, 2018
3:30-5:00 pm
Blow Hall Board Room**

Officers Present: Cathy Forestell (President), Jack Martin (Vice President), Chris Abelt (Secretary), Eric Chason (Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors)

Other Members Present: Mark Brush, Lynda Butler, Mark Forsyth, Carl Friedrichs, Steve Holliday, Jenny Kahn, Rex Kincaid, Rowan Lockwood, Michael Luchs, Alan Meese, Christy Porter, Ron Schechter, Sophia Serghi, Megan Tschannen-Moran and Tom Ward

Members Absent: Tim Costelloe, Ron Hess

Others in Attendance: Michael Halleran (Provost), Ann Marie Stock (Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs), Dennis Manos (Vice Provost for Research), Mark Patterson (University Ombuds) and Terry Meyers (Parliamentarian)

1. Call to order

Ms. Forestell called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes for November 28, 2017

The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

3. Introduction of Mark Patterson, University Ombuds

Mark Patterson talked about the role of the University Ombuds. He handed out a three-question quiz. The Ombuds reports to the Provost. The position requires listening, negotiating, mediation and organizational navigation skills. The Ombuds is not allowed to investigate a complaint of harassment.

4. Provost's Report

Two faculty have won Outstanding Faculty Awards. A third was a finalist. The College has the largest number of these awards. The Provost has addressed several groups about the WM2026 plan. The BOV meets next week before Charter Day. The General Assembly is in full swing. One bill concerns making transfer of course credit uniform across the Commonwealth. Another addresses the proportion of in-state and out-of-state students at public universities.

The Vice Provost reminded the group that the creative adaptation fund and the Reveley Fellows applications are due February 7. She mentioned that the 'writers retreat' event organized with the library was a success. More are planned, perhaps one that focuses on grant writing.

5. Update on the President Search

Mr. Chason reported that the committee was on or ahead of schedule in its charge to deliver three unranked names to the BOV by February 15. The committee has completed its interviews.

6. Report on the Engineering and Design Initiative with Dennis Manos.

Dennis Manos explained the development of the Engineering and Design initiative. The Provost convened an *ad hoc* committee of 18 members several years ago to explore an area of study whose goals are to ‘design and build various devices or objects.’ The plan is intended to be implemented over a 5-6 year period. The College has several hurdles in working to implement this plan: the curriculum, student recruitment and student placement. The College is known for its strengths history, philosophy, english and in science and math. Several similar schools also have programs in engineering: Princeton, Lafayette, UVa and Smith. Surprisingly, the College lags in its proportion of STEM majors (28.3%) relative to aspirational schools. Implementation has already begun with creation of makerspaces, the hiring of Jonathan Fey, and the creation of the Data Science minor. Demand for spaces in Data Science courses exceeded supply. The Physics Engineering and Applied Design (EPAD) is soon going to be a new concentration in the Physics major with the creation of several new or modified courses. A major in Applied Science is planned. EPAD is expected to graduate 100 students per year. The long term evolution of this track will open up new avenues of research both at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The engineering initiative will have a presence in the Business School through an Entrepreneurship program. Good ideas will work their way to device or objects and eventually to pitch for funding through a Startup Accelerator. On the heels of Entrepreneurship is the bioengineering track which will be built on the success of iGEM (international genetically engineered machines). Mr. Kincaid asked about ABET accreditation. Mr. Manos said that ABET is a goal. Mr. Brush asked about the non-traditional nature of the initiative. Mr. Manos said that the tradition method of having ‘silos’ is not beneficial.

7. Discussion of revisions to the Faculty Retire and Return to Work policy

A third draft of the policy was discussed. It added a statement that the policy does not preclude negotiating other retirement contracts. The age eligibility cap was raised to 72. Finally, standards for appeal of a denial were added. The drafted was approved unanimously and will be sent to Personnel Policy for review.

8. Reports from standing committees

Executive Committee – Cathy Forestell

The EC discussed moving up the Faculty Survey to this semester to present to the new President. The survey will be updated with climate questions and with faculty priorities.

The WM2026 restarted is deliberations. They are working on a report and slide presentation to be delivered to the BOV and to the faculty. Focus will be on ideas for extra-ordinary sources of revenue. Ms. Serghi asked about how much the ‘For the Bold’ campaign will generate per capita

(student). The Provost replied that it will probably be greater than \$100K. Because of the nature of charitable giving, little of that is in the form of cash. The recent tax package puts a 1.25% surcharge on payouts at private universities with per capita endowments exceeding \$500K.

Liaison Committee – Jack Martin

Nick Balascio (geology) is scheduled to present for the February meeting. The April meeting will feature Jody Allen and the Lemon Project.

Academic Affairs – Christy Porter

The committee is formulating faculty survey questions on faculty priorities. They hope to use the answers in a document for the new President highlighting current policies and future directions.

Faculty Affairs – Megan Tschannen-Moran

The committee plans to meet soon to modify the faculty survey for this semester.

COPAR – Rex Kincaid

The committee will meet on February 22, just after the General Assembly has had bills ‘cross over.’

9. Old Business

The *ad hoc* committee on Handbook revisions will post a draft of section III.D.3 to the faculty for comment. It will be working on section H (which will become I).

10. Adjourn

Having no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Prepared by Chris Abelt