

## Faculty Assembly Meeting

Minutes for May 14, 2020

3:30-5:00 pm

Remotely via Zoom

*Officers Present:* Tom Ward (President), David Armstrong (Vice President), Chris Abelt (Secretary) and Cathy Forestell (Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors)

*Other Members Present:* Mark Brush, Josh Burk, Lynda Butler, Marjy Friedrichs, , Natoya Haskins, Bill Hutton, Lisa Landino, Rowan Lockwood, Michael Luchs, Alan Meese, Jennifer Mellor, John Riofrio, Scott Swan, Molly Swetnam-Burland, and Brad Weiss

*Members Absent:* Brennan Harris and Sophia Serghi

*New Members Present:* Tonya Boone, Harmony Dagleish, Adam Gershowitz, Catherine Levesque, Michelle Lelièvre, and Anne Rasmussen

*Others in Attendance:* Katherine Rowe (President), Peggy Agouris (Provost), Ann Marie Stock (Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs), Christopher Lee (Chief Human Resources Officer), Terry Meyers (Parliamentarian), Suzette Spencer, Marcus Holmes, Suzanne Hagedorn, Scott Challener, Jay Butler, and Robin Ellis

### 1. Call to order

Mr. Ward called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

### 2. President's Remarks

The president thanked Faculty Assembly and all our colleagues on-campus ~ staff and faculty ~ for the extraordinary efforts of this spring. The pandemic will continue and with it, so will the uncertainty we must navigate. With this in mind, the president shared the latest epidemiological forecasts, the swift planning process of the Plan Ahead team, and the efforts of the Council of Presidents of VA public institutions to collaborate on gating criteria, tools to safeguard health when campus repopulates.

She noted that due to the seriousness with which the campus has approached mission-critical cost containment this spring, we are currently tracking towards the low end of the projected deficit of \$13M-\$32M by August. Auxiliary reserves have been used to cover shortfalls due to room and board rebates.

The very sobering financial forecast heading deeper into FY21 will become somewhat clearer towards mid-June, and the president and VPs will continue to share regular updates with the campus. In contrast to other institutions, enrollment deposits are up from last year but the summer is expected to be quite dynamic. The most positive financial projections for FY21 depend on our ability to have students learning on campus in the fall and beyond.

### 3. Provost's Report

The Provost's executive leadership team (Deans, Vice Provosts, Registrar) has been studying various scenarios for the fall along with best practices. Some institutions of higher education

have made decisions about the fall (Cal State – online; Purdue – in person) and others have a wait and see approach. We hope to make a determination in June, but the situation will remain fluid. Curriculum delivery scenarios are linked to living situations (dorms, dining). The Plan Ahead Team will offer options that have been vetted to achieve the least-bad decision possible. The course evaluation policy worked out by the Academic Affairs Committee has been disseminated to the Schools. The tenure clock extension policy will be released soon. Policies for the summer and fall course evaluations to be determined.

#### **4. Approval of the minutes**

Minutes for the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

#### **5. Election of Officers**

President – David Armstrong (moves into this position as current Vice President)

Vice President – Mark Brush (14 votes, 4 votes for Tonya Boone)

Secretary – Chris Abelt (no other nomination)

COPAR chair – Tom Ward

Academic Affairs – Natoya Haskins

Faculty Affairs – in discussion

#### **6. August Retreat – David Armstrong**

The retreat will be scheduled for either Thursday, August 20 or Friday, August 21, hopefully on the VIMS campus. Possible topics include the faculty survey, SSRL policy, and other issues that may have arisen. The President and Provost will be invited.

#### **7. Committee Reports**

Executive Committee – Tom Ward

The committee worked on the tenure clock extension and course evaluation policies.

Liaison Committee – David Armstrong

Cathy Forestell gave an update to the BOV on the Assembly's activities at the May 12 meeting.

Faculty Affairs – Scott Swan

The faculty survey had higher participation rates than the last one. Participation was low in business, social sciences, and with assistant professors. Tuition benefits were desirable. One-quarter of faculty reported witnessing discrimination and over half reported assisting in dealing with incidents. Graduate stipends, compensation for attracting and retaining faculty, and teaching evaluations were other issues of concern revealed by the survey.

Academic Affairs – Rowan Lockwood

The white paper on course evaluations will be completed on May 26<sup>th</sup>. It may be another topic for the retreat.

COPAR - Lynda Butler

No report. The committee will operate differently next year.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Before adjourning Alan Meese offered a few words for Lynda Butler who is retiring. She was an undergraduate math major here. She was instrumental in the creation of the first Faculty Handbook. She was President of the Faculty Assembly, Vice Dean of the Law School for 8 years and Dean for one. She is the co-chair of the Sustainability Committee, an expert on property rights, won the Graves Award, and holds the title of Chancellor professor. The dictionary definition of service is Lynda Butler.

The meeting was adjourned at 4: 45 after members unmuted to applaud Lynda's contributions to the College.

Prepared by Chris Abelt