

## **Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting**

**December 3, 2008**

**Combs Hall 139**

The meeting came to order at 4:05 pm and after a half-hour reception in the Combs Hall foyer.

### **Faculty Meeting**

The regular order of business was delayed in order to accommodate a faculty-only discussion of issues related to university faculty governance, particularly in light of President Hample's announcement of the creation of a College of Education and a College of Business. Just under 70 faculty members were in attendance. Mary Rigsby (ELC) started the meeting with a free-writing assignment that asked those in attendance to jot down their biggest anxieties regarding the move to a three-college structure. A lengthy and productive discussion ensued and there are plans to hold similar meetings in the future. The 45-minute meeting was extended by vote once (for an extra 15 minutes). Here are some key points/contributions (generally split between those endorsing and opposing the tri-campus system) from the meeting:

- 1) Geography is a problem if the other colleges are in Stafford. Transportation between campuses for students and faculty would be difficult. Would faculty hold two office spaces? Libraries are currently inadequate and understaffed at the CGPS campus, and the dining services are poor. In addition, the faculty teaching there would suffer from isolation within the larger university community. We should be particularly mindful of how Education and Business professors will be affected by the move.
- 2) It is hard to imagine an integrated tri-campus university. If the integration process is going forward only to protect the university's status, then why not build the new campuses in the route 1 parking lot just purchased by the university?
- 3) We need to be mindful of how this change will affect our students. We have a reputable undergraduate program and we might endanger that in the process of expansion. We may wind up diluting the UMW degree if we do not ensure that academic standards are equal across the three campuses. In fact, many faculty members want to keep UMW a small undergraduate institution and see expansion as a threat to the reason that they are here.
- 4) We should make sure that we have an effective governing structure, a single faculty senate with representation from across the three colleges. We must also ensure that we develop equal standards for students and faculty. With respect to faculty, we need to have tenure and the same reward system across the three colleges.
- 5) A truly integrated campus would mean that professors in CAS (not just those in Business and Education) would also have to split their time between campuses. Is this desirable?

- 6) The size of faculty would differ considerably between the three campuses. Perhaps the three different Deans should not have the same power of representation when they are representing such drastically different numbers. Let's also keep in mind that our prestige would be in line with the three different colleges. This means that we would have to dramatically change student-admission practices to make them uniform across the university, as well as monitor how faculty is currently hired to make that equitable.
- 7) Untenured faculty members at CGPS currently lack job-security. We would likely be partnering with dispensable workers at other campuses under the tri-campus model. CGPS is aware of this problem and most of the faculty members there appreciate CAS's endorsement of their efforts with regard to tenure.
- 8) We need to be more aggressive with the administration with respect to faculty governance. We need more than 1 faculty senate representative on the Provost search. Is the consultant running the search, or is the administration?

At this point, the faculty recommended that a motion be brought before the senate during the regularly-scheduled meeting. It was to lobby for more faculty representation in the Provost search. The faculty-only meeting ended at 5:05 and the faculty senate meeting began.

## **Reports**

Jerry Slezak, Acting Director of DTLT

Updating to BlackBoard 8 will take place over the winter break. The current BlackBoard system will be offline 12/19/08-1/2/09 in order to transport data and conclude setup. The old Blackboard will remain up for the spring, but just to allow faculty to move and archive their existing data. The update is due to security concerns (some patches and updates cannot happen to old version of BlackBoard). If you are interested in moving materials, make sure to archive the data from a former course and then import that data into the new BlackBoard shell when the course is repeated. The two most notable differences are in the grade book and messaging. Since it will be synched with Banner on a regular basis, the new version should keep accurate rosters. Under the new system, however, there will be some course space limitations. If you need more than 100MB per course, contact Slezak.

## **Minutes**

The minutes from the faculty meeting on November 5, 2008 were approved unanimously

## **Reports (Continued)**

Nina Mikhalevsky, Acting Provost

No report.

Rosemary Barra, Interim Dean of the Faculty

No report.

John Morello, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

No report.

Doug Holcombe, Chair, Academic Council, CGPS (Mr. Doug Holcombe)

No report.

Mary Rigsby, President of the Senate

Distributed before the meeting. Rigsby reminded everyone that she was asked by President Hample to select a faculty representative for the Provost search committee. Also, she noted that 17 departments have pledged to donate \$25 to the Faculty Senate budget, that 1 department declined to contribute, and that four other department chairs have yet to reply.

Suzanne Summer, President-Elect of the Senate

Distributed before the meeting. Summer added that the faculty senate of Virginia will give awards to state legislators that support higher education. Nominations should be forwarded to her. Also, Higher Education advocacy day is on January 15, 2009 and the VA faculty senate will have its next meeting on that day at VCU in Richmond. Let her know if anyone plans to attend.

Colin Turner, Student Representative Report

No report.

## **Standing Committees**

Academic Affairs Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Campus Academic Resources Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Curriculum Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Faculty Development and Grants Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Faculty Organization Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Promotion and Tenure Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Bachelor of Liberal Studies Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Budget Advisory Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

**Curriculum Advisory Committees**

First-Year Seminar Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

General Education Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Writing Intensive Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

Speaking Intensive Committee

Distributed before the meeting.

***Ad hoc* Committees**

The Faculty Advisory Committee for the University of Mary Washington Teaching Center

No report.

UMW University Faculty Governance Study Group

No report.

## **Old Business**

### **Motion to explore changing requirements for election of Senators**

Motion tabled until January 2009 meeting.

### **Motion to establish two ad hoc committees: 1) to establish UMW CAS Faculty Senate Website and 2) to review Faculty Handbook in relationship to traits of effective senates listed by AAHE National Network of Faculty Senates and the AAUP indicators of sound governance**

Distributed before the meeting. Motion carried.

### **Motion to survey faculty satisfaction with administration**

Motion still in committee.

## **New Business**

### **Motion to elect a faculty representative to serve on the Steering Committee for Strategic Planning.**

Rigsby suggested that the senate select one of the two Senators-at-large to serve on the committee. Motion carried, with two votes against it from representatives from Biology and Economics, who noted that Senators-at-large were voted to represent departments in the Senate and not on other committees. The Senate voted to reconsider the motion. After some consideration and discussion, the Senate voted in favor of the motion and it carried.

*Motion:* That either Tracy Citeroni (Sociology) or Alan Griffith (Biology) represent the senate on the Steering Committee.

*Rationale:* As Senators-at-large, these two representatives have already been elected from the entire body of the faculty. Electing them to the Steering Committee would be the best way to keep the senate involved.

Motion carried.

## **New Business**

### **Motion from the Academic Affairs Committee to permit departments to offer minors.**

Distributed before the meeting. This motion was deemed a matter of major policy and it will be deferred to the next senate meeting for a vote. In particular, several senators had asked for more time for departmental discussion. David Long (Music) also asked for a point of clarification about the second sentence on page 11, which seemed to state that a course could count for two different minors (“A maximum of 2 courses may count for both a major and a minor or toward two different minors.”). John Morello asked the committee to revise this language for clarity. He also asked if there was a discussion about the process for declaring a minor. Scott Powers (MDFL) noted that the committee discussed the process with Jo Ann Schrass and Judy Ginter. A motion was made from the floor.

*Motion:* That the Academic Affairs Committee review the document to consider the discussion that took place.

Passed unanimously.

A motion was forwarded as recommended by the faculty at the earlier faculty-only meeting.

It asked that the faculty senate select three faculty members from the senate to serve on the search committee for Provost. The purpose was to urge President Hample to include three faculty representatives from the senate. During the faculty-only discussion, however, it was not clear that there would be more than one faculty member serving on the search committee. Dean Barra said that she thought President Hample would request other faculty representatives, and also appoint other faculty members, to serve on the search committee. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn and a new motion was forwarded.

*Motion:* That Alan Griffith (Biology) serve as faculty senate representative in the Provost search committee.

Passed unanimously.

The senate also asked Rigsby to request more information from President Hample about the composition of the search committee, with the intent to ensure that faculty are fully represented.

## **Announcements**

No announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio Barrenechea

Assistant Professor

Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication