

Minutes of the Faculty Senate
March 1, 2006, 4:00 p.m.
Red Room, Woodard Campus Center

Denis Nissim-Sabat (FSP) called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. The minutes of the 1 February 2006 meeting were approved as corrected.

Committee Reports

- **Academic Affairs Committee.** No Report
- **Campus Academic Resources Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Curriculum Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Faculty Affairs Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Faculty Development and Grants Committee**
Davidson (PSIA) asked Dean Barra if funding for the grants committee will continue to increase as the 15-1 initiative adds more faculty lines. She responded that it would.
- **Faculty Organization Committee.** The committee's motion will be presented under new business.
- **Bachelor of Liberal Studies Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Global Awareness Committee.** The committee's motions will be presented under new business.
- **Race and Gender Committee.**
Hayob (at-large) asked about the matter of training and/or preparation to teach RGI courses (bullet #5). Fuller (FSPE) commented that this criterion represents a substantive change of policy—in that it used to be that anyone who thought they were qualified to teach one of these courses was permitted to do so. Morello said that the debate Fuller was referring to occurred before the faculty adopted the policies for ATC courses. The language under #5 is consistent with criteria the faculty adopted at that time.
- **Writing Intensive Committee.** The committee did not meet.
- **Environmental Awareness Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **Speaking Intensive Committee.** Report was accepted without comment.
- **General Education Committee.** No report.

Report of the President of the Faculty Senate.

Meeting of the BOV February 17

- The BOV is still considering the request for a child care center. Nissim-Sabat suggested that they use one of the modulars that will be on campus as a transitional facility.
- The BOV has discussed with an architect the matter of changing the brick frontage on the three corners of the campus to the University of Mary Washington.

- The little “island” across from Goolrick Hall is owned by the University, and the BOV is considering putting a sign there. Watkins (ELS) mentioned that the plan is to place the name College of Arts and Sciences underneath the University of Mary Washington.
- The faculty of the CGPS has requested sabbaticals, but their request was for a policy that exceeded what we have. Dean Barra tried to explain to them that the number of sabbaticals allotted the faculty of the CGPS should be proportionally comparable to what we have.

Legislative Update

- The proposed salary increases of 3.65 percent for FY2007 and 3.0 for FY2008, if enacted, will mean that faculty at merit level 2 will receive less than the projected inflation rate for this year (2.4 percent).
- The textbook bill before the legislature deals in part with the matter of “bundling.” Faculty would be required to state whether or not they were actually going to use all the items bundled together, and if they were not then the bookstore would have to order the items separately. The bookstores are opposing the legislation. On a related issue, the legislature has expressed concern for students who cannot afford textbooks, and may require institutions to purchase copies for their use—presumably to be placed in the institutions’ libraries. Finally, the legislature may require faculty to use older editions.
- Legislative amendments requested by UMW dealt primarily with CGPS matters. There were no new initiatives from this campus.

Other matters

- The senate has extended to Bill Frawley an invitation to meet with them. Nissim-Sabat suggested that the President of the senate should be invited to the BOV’s summer retreat.

Watkins (ELS) asked for further clarification on the BOV’s position on the child care center. He observed that if the center is not on site and it is for profit, it will be running far afield of the spirit of the project. Hayob (at-large) pointed out that the most recent survey clearly stated that the center would not constitute a “benefit” for faculty, yet there was interest in it nevertheless.

Report of the Interim Dean of the Faculty

- **Searches.** Of the 28 searches being conducted this year, eleven have been filled: ten fulltime and one visiting.
- **Liability issues.** Dean Barra summarized the comments of Jack Knight (our representative in the Attorney General’s office) when he spoke to the Chairs in November. He provided information on risk management, areas of liability for faculty, and chilling of speech (i.e., violation of a student’s right to free speech). If an instructor is charged with inappropriate comments in a class, in order to use academic freedom as a defense he/she must be able to prove that what was said was germane to the subject being taught. Dean Barra referred to the 1940 AAUP statement on the principles of academic freedom (quoted from the *Faculty Handbook*) which holds that “teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial material that has no relation to their subject.” From the

AAUP statement on freedom and responsibility adopted in 1970 and revised in 1990, she quoted: “It is the mastery teachers have of their subjects . . . that entitles them to their classrooms and to freedom in the presentation of their subject. Thus it is improper for any instructor to persistently intrude material which has no relation to their subject or to fail to present the material of the course as announced to the students. . .” In sum, faculty have academic freedom in discussion of their subject but if they introduce material that is irrelevant to the course material, then they may not be covered by academic freedom in a dispute. Watkins asked what kind of institutional support could we expect to receive if accused of inappropriate speech? If there is a complaint, does the AG represent us? The Dean responded that it would be reviewed, and that it would be on a case-by-case basis. Yes, you would be covered by the AG’s office as an employee, but you could not necessarily expect the AG’s office to come down in your favor. A liability form for students who go on trips or for those using chemicals in labs is in preparation by the risk management office (under Susan Knick).

Report of the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

- **Faculty Handbook.** Morello reported that comments on the faculty handbook draft have been few. There is one motion from the FOC regarding changes in the procedures for constituting a Promotion Appeals Committee which, if adopted by the senate, would be added to the new handbook. Another issue pertained to the suggestion that the handbook include a statement (under §2.1.2 of the new *Faculty Handbook*) regarding the importance of service on the faculty senate. Proposed language was: “participation in the faculty senate while not expected or required is considered a valuable service contribution.” He went on to suggest that approval of the new handbook be put on today’s agenda under new business in order to get the matter before the BOV at their next meeting. Gosetti-Murrayjohn moved that we add approval of the faculty handbook to new business; deGraff seconded the motion. Nissim-Sabat said he did not think we needed to go into a committee of the whole to accomplish this.

Report of the Student Representative.

- **Candidates for student government.** Meghan Cudahy asked that faculty not address students in their classrooms about running for student government offices. She said it is fine to do so outside of class, but within a class it will be viewed as controversial and as giving an unfair advantage to one candidate.
- **Extended library hours.** The Academic Affairs Council is currently looking into the feasibility of extending the library hours during exam week. Traditionally the hours have only been extended during the reading period.
- **Retention of the name Mary Washington College.** The student senate passed a resolution urging the administration and the BOV to live up to its commitment to retain the name Mary Washington College.(The text of the resolution is in the agenda packet.)

New Business

Motion from the Faculty Organization Committee regarding FAC representative on Promotion Appeal Advisory Committees

Motion: That the Faculty Handbook be amended in the following way (additions are underlined):

NOTE: This is currently section 5.2.3.11, but will be moved to section 6.4.11 under the new structuring.

6.4.11 In each instance when an appeal is requested, the Dean shall, within one working week, establish a Promotion Appeal Advisory Committee (PAAC) which shall be composed of one member of the Faculty Affairs Committee, selected by the committee; one member appointed by the Dean; one member appointed by the President; and one member appointed by the appellant. If none of the elected members of the FAC are eligible to serve on the PAAC, an ex officio member of the Committee who meets the eligibility requirements may serve. If no member of the FAC is eligible to serve on the PAAC, the Committee will select an eligible faculty member who was previously elected to and served on the FAC. No person on the PAAC, other than the person selected by the appellant, should be a faculty member who has written a letter of recommendation for the candidate's promotion and/or tenure file. In the event of multiple appeals, the three members appointed respectively by the Faculty Affairs Committee, the Dean, and the President shall serve on each appeal committee; the member selected by the appellant shall serve only on the committee reviewing the appeal of his or her selector. All members serving on the PAAC shall have the rank of full professor.

There was no discussion. The motion was passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Motion from the Global Awareness ATC Committee

Proposed Amendments to the Guidelines for the Submission of Global Awareness Courses

Amendment #1. Amend the first paragraph of the "Guidelines for Submission of Global Awareness courses" as follows:

All students are required to take six credits in courses which fulfill the Global Awareness Across-The-Curriculum requirement. Such course may be in any discipline, but all GA courses must promote an awareness of global issues as a central and explicit theme. ~~A course proposed for GA designation must address all three major goals and specify how the objectives under each goal are met by the course. Please address as many of the objectives as possible.~~ *Courses need not attempt to address all of the objectives listed under each of the three goals, but should address each of the goals.*

Amendment #2: Addition of the notion of globalization to the GA requirements Under "Goal #1: Awareness and knowledge of global issues" add the following additional objective

Objective #5: Students will develop an understanding of the processes and consequences of globalization.

Vera Niebuhr of the Global Awareness Committee spoke briefly on the motions. Nissim-Sabat asked for questions on Amendment #1. Davidson (PSIA) suggested that in the statement “*Courses need not attempt to address all of the objectives listed under each of the three goals, but should address each of the goals*” the word *should* should be changed to *must*, and offered it as a friendly amendment, which Prof. Niebuhr accepted. Liss (PSYC) proposed a substitute wording: Courses need not attempt to address all of the objectives listed under each of the three goals, but must address each of the goals. Please address as many of the objectives as possible, which Prof. Niebuhr accepted for the committee. The final version was passed unanimously on a voice vote: *All students are required to take six credits in courses which fulfill the Global Awareness Across-The-Curriculum requirement. Such course may be in any discipline, but all GA courses must promote an awareness of global issues as a central and explicit theme. Courses need not attempt to address all of the objectives listed under each of the three goals, but must address each of the goals. Please address as many of the objectives as possible.*

Amendment #2. Long (MUSC) proposed that objective #5 was redundant, to which Niebuhr replied that the term “globalization” should be there in order to be up to date. Long countered that the term applies to political and economic issues, and that those issues are incorporated into objective #3. Davidson (PSIA) said that a widely used definition of globalization pertains to the degree of interconnectedness in the world today, and that therefore objective #5 does not deal with precisely the same issues as #3. After further discussion, the question was called, and the motion was passed on a voice vote.

Motion to approve the new *Faculty Handbook*

It was moved by Fuller (FSPE) and seconded by Watkins (ELS) that the Senate approve the new *Faculty Handbook*. Gosetti-Murrayjohn praised the work of Vice President Morello. The question was called, and the motion was passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Proposal on the constitution of the Promotion-Tenure Committee. Scott (CHEM) read the following proposal “That the FOC must insure that the Promotion-Tenure Committee include representation from each of the academic buildings.” Scott read his rationale for the proposal, and Nissim-Sabat referred the proposal to the FOC. Morello raised the practical issue of how this balance could be achieved on an elected committee.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Fickett, Secretary to the Faculty Senate