

Called Faculty Meeting
Thursday, September 30
3:30, Blackwell Ballroom

Dr. Fergeson called the meeting to order at 3:30 and explained that this special meeting was part of an effort to improve communication and dialogue about matters of concern to the faculty. She reported on the recent meeting of the President's Advisory Committee with President Finnegan which opened with a discussion of the cancelation of Three 6 Mafia for the Oktoberfest weekend and the opportunity this presented for campus dialogue about such issues as cultural diversity, town-gown relationships, and the language and methods we use to talk about these issues and security. She reported that the president was very concerned about the cancelation and its ramifications. The discussion moved on to the *USA Today* article and the need for open discussion of controversial initiatives and decisions. The Committee asked about the academic master plan, and President Finnegan said that he expected it to be a rigorous and extensive process involving some difficult choices, and he hopes, perhaps too optimistically, that it might be completed by the end of the 2012 academic year. Other topics included the Governor's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation, and Investment. Details of these discussions will be available in the Committee's forthcoming report to the faculty. When asked what message he'd like to send to the faculty at this meeting, he said "tell them I'm not a miracle worker" and ask for their patience.

Dr. Fergeson called on Ms. Kinman for an update on the five-year interim SACS report. She explained in some detail the changes in the requirements since the last SACS accreditation visit and reported that Longwood was cited in two areas covered by the interim report: Institutional Effectiveness, which involves assurance that identified expected outcomes are being met, and Full-time Faculty, a standard requiring enough faculty to support the mission of the institution and to insure the quality and integrity of each program. A response from Longwood is due this coming April. The interim report will help Longwood take steps to be ready for the accreditation visit in the spring of 2014. Two committees have been formed to address the problem areas, make recommendations, and prepare the referral report, one chaired by John Gaskins, another by Audrey Church. Ms. Kinman presented a time-line for the work to be done from this spring through the visit in 2014 and explained that Dr. Amoss would be heading up the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which you will hear more about in the coming months.

Dr. Fergeson called on Dr. Perkins and Mr. Butler to talk about off-site programs, and Dr. Perkins started by explaining that Longwood has 18 different sites for off-campus programs or courses, but he concentrated on the sites with programs. He began with the four-year old New College Institute in Martinsville which offers liberal studies and the teaching licensure. It is an outreach program created by Longwood and other institutions in place of a totally new college. There is the Bachelor of General Studies program with a concentration in logistics at Fort Lee which enriches the lives of servicemen and is a revenue source at the same time. Then he turned to the Emporia location which is in its formative stages and is an outreach program offering liberal studies and the teaching licensure to an underserved area. The idea for this has been around since 1995 and was focused on when Longwood made a decision two years ago to move to Level 2. At that time Longwood had to propose two academic performance standards and two outreach programs (the Fort Lee program did not satisfy that requirement). Dr. Perkins said that the goal is to meet the graduation rate targets at Emporia and Martinsville, to maintain the rigor and integrity of the Longwood degree, and to spend wisely and make adjustments so that Longwood does not overreach and have to compromise itself.

Mr. Butler, the director of the Emporia program, explained what his activities involve right now in establishing the program, and he assured faculty that as an alumnus, a faculty member until last year, and director his goal is to preserve the integrity of the program. He thinks the requisite numbers of students are there, and that the program can succeed. He also talked about the tremendous support from the Southside Virginia Community College center at Emporia and the welcome he has received from the officials and people in the community.

Dr. Fergeson recognized Dr. Perry and Dr. Jones to talk about the proposed five-year licensure program for elementary and middle school teachers. Dr. Jones explained that in response to a charge from President Cormier the department was looking at ways to “do this better.” The department has solicited ideas from superintendants, faculty, and others to build a program, has gathered additional feedback, and anticipates sending the program through undergraduate and graduate committees, EPC, and the Senate. He has developed a web site that documents every stage of the process and includes a timeline for the remaining steps. The web site is:
<http://web.me.com/cjonesva/mastersdegree/splash.html>

Dr. Lust talked about the undergraduate part of the program, which will not have to go to SCHEV. For the undergraduate liberal studies portion 12 hours of student teaching will be moved out to the graduate portion and be replaced by two new education courses and a course in political science and one in communication.

Among questions raised were one about the numbers of faculty lines needed for the program and one about resource allocation. Dr. Jones responded that the plan was not yet at the stage when these calculations can be made.

Dr. Abrams moved adjournment, the motion was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Susan May