

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2009
Virginia Room

Dr. Amoss called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The following members were present:

Dr. Jennifer Apperson	Dr. David Hardin	Dr. Gene Muto
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. Jim Haug	Dr. Tim Pierson
Dr. Gretchen Braun	Dr. Chene Heady	Dr. Keith Rider
Dr. Theresa Clark	Dr. Chris Jones	Dr. Charles Ross
Dr. Scott Cole	Dr. Rená Koesler	Dr. Cathy Roy
Dr. Patricia Cormier	Dr. Anthony Koyzis	Dr. David Shoenthal
Dr. Roy Creasey	Ms. Claire LaRoche	Dr. Gena Southall
Ms. Kerri Cushman	Mr. Mark Lenker	Dr. Pam Tracy
Dr. Alix Fink	Dr. Wayne McWEE	Ms. Kathy Worster
Dr. Mikie Flanigan	Dr. Joe Montoya	Mr. Keenan Crump
Dr. Jackie Hall	Dr. Eric Moore	

The following members were absent: Dr. Wendell Barbour, Dr. Paul Barrett, and Dr. Deneese Jones. Also present were Dr. Jennifer Abbassi, Ms. Brenda Atkins, Dr. Brian Bates, Dr. Chuck Blauvelt, Ms. Kathy Charleston, Dr. Rick Chassey, Dr. Lara Fergeson, Ms. Melinda Fowlkes, Dr. Joe Garcia, Dr. Ed Kinman, Mr. Jordan Miles, Dr. Ken Perkins, Dr. Jeannine Perry, Dr. Melissa Rhoten, Dr. Bill Stuart, and Dr. Wayne White.

The minutes for April 9 and April 23, 2009, were approved as posted.

With the consent of the body for an agenda reordering, Dr. Amoss introduced Dr. Cormier who reviewed the budget situation as it now stands. Since 2008 Longwood has suffered a 36 % cut, the bulk of it over the last year. She talked about her hopes for the stimulus money and for money the University could use from FY 2010, about the 8-hour furlough all state employees must take, the timing at the discretion of the agency, about the e-VA money the state will capture, and about the interest the state will delay on NGF balances in the amount of about one million dollars. She stressed the unknowns—when stimulus money would be available, whether any of the ARRA stimulus funds can be carried over to FY 2011, and the impact of the transfer of the VRS payment for the last quarter. There are some items subject to the General Assembly, and the Assembly will not act until January. Dr. Cormier is greatly concerned for 2012 when all the cuts must be fully in place and when there is no longer stimulus funding to soften the budget reductions. We have to be taking actions now in order to be ready for 2012. Dr. Cormier indicated that people with questions about the budget may ask Ms. Tracy Nelson for further information.

Dr. Cormier explained what is being done. One million in cuts has been identified. We are looking at all vacant positions, considering retirement incentives, re-engineering how we conduct business, and looking at possibilities for revenue generation, which could involve a spring 2010 surcharge. There will be no raises and no new positions, although some vacancies will be filled.

The biggest cost increase comes in utility costs which have risen one million this year. Dr. Cormier urges all to conserve, and she invites all to make suggestions about possible savings. The Senate Finance and

Planning Committee is a very active participant in these reviews and decisions, and you can forward suggestions to them. The chair is Dr. Keith Rider.

Dr. Amoss called on Dr. Ed Kinman for the EPC. There were no questions about the information items. Dr. Kinman for EPC moved approval of the proposal from the Graduate Committee for a grade of SP (Satisfactory Progress) for graduate internship/practicum/clinical experience courses, for collaborative research/teacher research courses, and thesis courses, in which students must be enrolled continuously until completion. His motion passed.

Dr. Amoss called on Mr. Jordan Miles, Judicial Board Chairman, who spoke on behalf of a committee organizing a celebration in the fall of 2010 of the hundredth year of the SGA and the Honor Code. The Committee is looking for faculty ideas and input for the celebration and especially wants faculty assistance with a review of the Honor Code and suggestions for improvements. Ideas can be sent to Thomas.Miles@live.longwood.edu.

Dr. Lara Fergeson and Dr. Bill Stuart were present to give a report from the committee on the self-assessment of the Senate. Because of time constraints they concentrated on a condensed presentation on the survey of the state of the University at this meeting and will give the results for the Senate section of the survey in October. Dr. Stuart talked about the positive indications from the survey but pointed out that discontent had increased significantly in the past year or so. He and Dr. Fergeson wondered if it might be a good idea to administer such a survey at regular intervals. They provided a handout for each Senator which Senators can share with interested department members.

Dr. Amoss asked Dr. Tracy to open the discussion of faculty-initiated academic transformation, and she outlined what she saw as a three-pronged effort to streamline majors, review general education, and engage in curriculum transformation. She sees transformation as involving hybrid courses, on-line learning, interdisciplinary courses, uses of technology. She asked whether standing committees should handle these matters, whether we needed an overarching committee to coordinate faculty efforts. Senators raised numerous questions regarding such issues as academic freedom, undertaking too much at once, undertaking any of this before we define who we are and what kind of institution we want to be. Some pointed out that there are things we are doing well, and they should be identified so they can be kept, that there is a lot we can learn from each other, that General Education evaluation and streamlining of majors is now being done by appropriate committees and departments. They warned against tackling too much at once and recommended taking care of first things first. At the close of the discussion, Dr. Tracy asked what the next step might be. Dr. Amoss asked if the Center for Faculty Enhancement might organize discussions on related matters and survey the faculty to determine in what areas of instructional delivery and course design our colleagues already have experience and expertise.

Dr. Haug moved adjournment, and Dr. Amoss adjourned the meeting at 5:17.

Susan May