

Spring Faculty Meeting
Thursday, March 27, 2014
Wygat Auditorium

Dr. Lehr called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of the opening faculty meeting on Friday, August 23, 2013, were approved as posted.

Dr. Lehr called for nominations for a faculty representative to the Faculty Senate of Virginia. Dr. Magill nominated Dr. Jake Milne, and the nomination was seconded. He moved that the nominations be closed. His motion was seconded and Dr. Milne was elected. Dr. Lehr thanked Dr. Abrams for his service over the last two years.

For the Core Curriculum Committee Dr. Emerson-Stonnell outlined the research efforts the committee has undertaken to date. The next meeting of the full committee is scheduled for May, and meetings during the coming academic year will be frequent as a meeting time has been built into committee members' schedules. After May a blog will be available with their minutes, etc., so that the process will be as open as possible. For the subcommittee on faculty feedback Dr. Rhoten spoke about the response to the committee's recent questionnaire. Faculty liked the current general education program for its breadth, internships, the attention to skills and different perspectives. In the future faculty would like to see more interdisciplinary courses, a more unified assessment process and assessment of SCHEV's core competencies, more emphasis on writing and speaking and study abroad, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Dr. Abrams and Dr. Webber presented the AAUP Salary Study (posted on the Senate web page). Dr. Abrams pointed out that the mean faculty increase was close to 4 % although that for continuing faculty was closer to 3%, and despite the increases Longwood is still at the 5th percentile of our SCHEV benchmark institutions. There was a 3.5% increase in the number of faculty positions.

Dr. Lehr reported on the year's work of the Senate. Three ad hoc committees have been hard at work—the Academic Core Committee, the Committee on Student Complaints which has revised the termination policies and is at work on a sexual harassment policy, and the committee on student evaluation of faculty which is working on improving participation rates and possibly the evaluation instrument itself. There was an ad hoc Committee on External Grants which produced a major and much needed revamping of the policies and procedures. In addition, the newly revised Finance and Planning Committee has been reporting regularly on its work, and the Committee on Academic Outcomes Assessment and Program Review has revised its purpose and duties. EPC has, as usual, produced a lot of changes, revisions, new programs and concentrations. Other projects are still underway. Dr. Lehr thanked all those who have worked hard on the committees to make the year a successful one.

Dr. Lehr called on Dr. Perkins who talked about the successful visit of the SACSC OC team and the single, fairly minor recommendation that grew out of the review--the need to strengthen and standardize the review of adjunct faculty. Remaining in addition to that task are setting the QEP in motion and developing a system for evaluating faculty credentials and qualifications as people join the faculty. Also, Dr. Perkins talked about the need for additional staffing in Academic Affairs.

Dr. Lehr recognized President Reveley who thanked Dr. Perkins and Dr. Lehr particularly for their work and their helpfulness. He talked about two things—strategizing and money. The latter topic focused on

finance and the “Virginia system.” He said there would be a third round of raises as promised but that then “rounds” would stop in favor of raises to all deserving faculty. Budget changes here are under way, but with 80 % of the budget needed for people, there is limited room for maneuvering. The good news is that the House has recommended a larger increase for Longwood than for any other institution and that philanthropy is doing well. Student applications are up and retention is improving. 20% of Longwood’s budget comes from the state, 3% from philanthropy, and the rest from students.

A way has been identified to channel more resources to E&G as opposed to auxiliary enterprises—without raising costs to students significantly. The administration is trying to close auxiliary loopholes in order to transfer moneys to E&G.

President Reveley, although skeptical of strategic plans, is working on several strategies he hopes to discuss with campus groups and the Board of Visitors in the coming months in order to define the direction of the university and steps to advance the university. (He distributed a draft of strategies to the faculty and staff last month.)

Dr. Lehr adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Susan May