

Memorandum

To: Dr. McRae Amoss, Chair of the Senate

From: Dr. Stephanie Buchert, Chair of University Lectures Committee

Re.: Report of committee activities for 2007-2008 academic year

Date: 16 April 2007

This year's University Lectures Committee was comprised of:

- Dr. Stephanie Buchert, Department of Psychology
- Ms. Angela Dugger, student representative of the College of Education and Human Services
- Dr. John Gaskins, Department of Management, Marketing, Retailing, CIMS, and Business Education
- Dr. Brett Hursey, Department of English and Modern Languages
- Dr. David Lehr, Department of Management, Marketing, Retailing, CIMS, and Business Education
- Dr. Michelle Norman, Department of Education, Special Education, Social Work, and Communication Disorders
- Dr. Jeannine Perry, Department of Education, Special Education, Social Work, and Communication Disorders
- Ms. Carlyle Powell, student representative of the College of Business and Economics
- Ms. Catherine Swandby, student representative of the College of Arts and Sciences

We successfully accomplished two important goals for the year: the hosting of a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and two Simkins Lecture Series presenters. We also hosted a Faculty Colloquium during the Fall semester.

The Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Dr. Andrei Aleinikov, visited the campus in March. Dr. Aleinikov presented a campus-wide lecture that challenged the audience to think critically about creativity and what it means to be a genius. He also gave lectures to various classes and organizations.

Again this year the Lectures Committee solicited proposals from the Longwood community for the Simkins Lecture Series. Nine diverse and interesting proposals were submitted for consideration. Committee members read the proposals, scored them using a rubric, and met to discuss the proposals and select the two presenters to be invited to our campus. As a result of that process, Dr. James Burgess (proposed by Dr. Melissa Rhoten) and Professor Robin Fleming (proposed by Dr. Steven Isaac) were invited to campus. Dr. Burgess presented a very engaging presentation to a standing-room-only crowd in the New Science Auditorium. Unfortunately, scheduling did not permit Dr. Fleming to visit this year and as such a replacement speaker was selected well into the spring term. The committee's choice of a replacement speaker was a proposal submitted by Erin Devine from the Art Department. Our second Simkins speaker(s), the Guerilla Girls, gave an enlightening presentation about feminism and activism.

In last year's end-of-year report to the Senate, the committee suggested that a shift of time should occur for call for proposal deadlines. In response to this suggestion, this year's committee also scheduled a Simkins speaker for Fall 2008. The speaker will be Dr. John Mebane (proposed by Dr. Michael Lund). Dr. Mebane will give a talk on "Christianity, Pacifism, and Principles of Justice in Warfare." During Fall 2008, a call will go out for Simkins proposals for Spring 2009 and Fall 2009. This will save next year's committee from being too rushed at the beginning of the school year to find a speaker for the Fall semester.

Also as part of its work this year, the committee resurrected the Faculty Colloquium series. Dr. David Hardin gave an enlightening talk on his work during the Fall 2007 semester. The talk was well-received, and several faculty members indicated that they would like the colloquium series to receive a bit of funding. Unfortunately, there was no Faculty Colloquium talk during the Spring semester. It is anticipated that someone will contribute to the colloquium series next semester.

Suggestions for next year include soliciting funding for the Faculty Colloquium series, particularly for the purchase of a Jefferson Cup (traditional gift for the speaker) and for a small refreshment service after the talk.