

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Thursday, November 12, 2009  
Library 147 A&B

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

Dr. Jennifer Apperson	Dr. David Hardin	Dr. Eric Moore
Dr. Wendell Barbour	Dr. Jim Haug	Dr. Gene Muto
Dr. Paul Barrett	Dr. Chene Heady	Dr. Tim Pierson
Dr. Lee Bidwell	Dr. Ryan Hebert	Dr. Keith Rider
Dr. Gretchen Braun	Dr. Chris Jones	Dr. Cathy Roy
Dr. Theresa Clark	Dr. Deneese Jones	Dr. David Shoenthal
Dr. Scott Cole	Dr. Rená Koesler	Dr. Gena Southall
Dr. Roy Creasey	Ms. Claire LaRoche	Dr. Pam Tracy
Dr. Alix Fink	Mr. Mark Lenker	Ms. Kathy Worster
Dr. Mikie Flanigan	Dr. Wayne McWee	Mr. Keenan Crump
Dr. Jackie Hall	Dr. Gerald Montoya	

Members not present were Ms. Kerri Cushman, Dr. Anthony Koyzis, and Dr. Charles Ross. Among a number of others present were Ms. Brenda Atkins, Mr. Troy Austin, Dr. Brian Bates, Ms. Joanna Baker, Dr. Ray Brastow, Ms. Erin Devine, Dr. Ed Kinman, Ms. Michelle Meadows, Mr. Chris Neal, and Dr. Bill Stuart.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved as posted.

Dr. Amoss called on Dr. Hall for the EPC report which consisted of information items about course name changes (posted on the Senate web page).

Dr. Amoss recognized Dr. Bates to report for the AAC. He gave a summary of the research behind the AAC resolution, after which Mr. Austin presented information on the athletics budget including revenue, expenses (salaries and operations expenses), and scholarships. He talked about the number of out-of-state and international athletes, about their academic standing, and about the consequences in numbers of students likely to be lost should the University drop Division I status. In questions and comments faculty members stressed that they were not against athletics but were concerned about costs and about the toll on students of travel and time away from the campus because there is no conference affiliation. One question to Mr. Austin focused on why, in comparison with other state institutions, such a high proportion of Longwood's comprehensive fee goes to athletics. Mr. Austin mentioned the start-up costs associated with being a new Division I program. (Details of Dr. Bates' and Mr. Austin's presentations are available from your Senators).

Dr. Shoenthal offered the following motion:

The Faculty Senate acknowledges Dr. Bates' diligence in collecting and analyzing the data presented in his budget reduction plan. We also feel that each budget proposal, regardless of origin, should be evaluated by the same process. Therefore, I move that Dr. Bates' proposal be sent to the Finance and Planning Committee for as equal and rigorous an examination as all other proposals.

The motion was seconded. Dr. Flanigan moved to amend the motion by adding “and forwarded to the University Budget and Planning Committee.” The motion was accepted by Dr. Shoenthal and the seconder. The motion as amended passed.

Dr. Cole commended Dr. Bates for his work, and Dr. Bates praised Mr. Austin for his work and his exemplary citizen leadership.

Dr. Amoss recognized Dr. Rider, chair of the Senate Finance and Planning Committee. Dr. Rider explained that in their last meeting with the University Budget and Planning Committee members had studied and discussed suggestions from the recent faculty survey for cuts and savings across the University. Dr. Stuart distributed a handout that showed the most frequent faculty suggestions (to be posted on the web page under “Other Reports”). Dr. Rider indicated that President Cormier will chair the University committee and the joint meetings in the future.

Dr. Amoss recognized Mr. Crump who reported concerns from the SGA and other students. There was uncertainty about faculty absence policies during this flu season, especially because the Health Center was not issuing excuses. Senators reassured him that the Health Center was as of Monday (Nov. 9) providing notes for students who visited the Center to show faculty, and there was a brief discussion of how to disseminate this information effectively to the student body. The second concern was about the timeliness of faculty text book orders because late orders prohibit a cost-saving buy-back program that benefits students. Mr. Crump’s third item was the issue about prayer at public ceremonies which the Senate Executive Committee had sent to SGA to discuss since the prayers are written and read by students and the ceremonies are for students. The SGA debate was very spirited, he said, and the issue was tabled until January.

Dr. McWee reported on the costliness of on-line evaluations and said that his office was exploring the possibility of using Inquisite and/or Blackboard for those evaluations.

Dr. Amoss announced the ad hoc committee to study Faculty Senate self-assessment results and make recommendations: Larissa Fergeson, chair, Jim Haug, Chris Jones, Liz Kocevar-Weidinger, David Shoenthal, Bill Stuart, and Glenda Taylor. The charge is to consider results from the self-assessment survey and, by February 1, report proposals for changes in the composition and/or procedures of the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Tracy reported that the presidential search committee had narrowed candidates from 123—a record number for the search firm—to 9. The next step will be telephone calls to references, then off-site interviews.

Dr. McWee reported a decline in H1N1 cases, but he warned that just as there was an increase after fall break, there might be another increase after Thanksgiving. He thought faculty should be thinking about what to do in case of heavy absences during exams. Do faculty want to grade on work they have, or do they want to offer incompletes and numbers of make-up examinations?

Dr. Shoenthal moved adjournment. His motion was seconded and the meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

Susan May