

## Business of the Senate Report – 29 March 2007

When I began to go through the minutes to compile a list of Senate business, at first glance it seemed rather paltry, and I know that I, the Executive Committee, and the Senators have been busy this year. Senators and Executive Committee members are often asked to sit on ad hoc university committees such as the Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Committee to Revise the Policy for Student Drops After Nonpayment, to name just two. In addition, the Executive Committee meets with the BOV during their sessions at the quarterly meetings. Further, the Executive Committee and Senate are often asked to recommend faculty participants for non-Senate committees like the University Committee on Minority Faculty Recruitment and the Committee for a Sustainable Environment.

So, on to the official report:

First, I'd like to note that as per the new bylaws, the VPAA has been informing the Executive Committee of policies to be sent to the Board, for example the bylaws and P&T procedures of the new departments in sciences and the Graduate Studies Graduate Assistant Appointment Policies.

1. EPC (Educational Policy Committee) will continue working until the final moments of the academic year, so there's more pending. Here are the approved items so far:
  - The prerequisites for FREN and SPAN 201 were changed to include 105 as an option
  - HLTH 210, PHYS 105, ART 201, ENGL 316 and 317 were all approved as general education classes
  - The Modern Language major has a new concentration in Comparative Literature
2. The Senate passed a resolution to enlist the Faculty Senate of Virginia to help persuade the Legislature to restore the starting date for faculty raises to the beginning of the fiscal year. Their response wasn't very hopeful or helpful. In essence, they consider this subject a non-starter.
3. Some Student Affairs people asked that the Senate support the creation of a First Amendment Monument. The Senate voted in favor of a resolution stating our support.
4. The Committee on Promotion and Tenure Policies and Procedures developed a definition and the conditions of appointment for Visiting Professor, a title that was in use, despite the fact it didn't appear in the FPPM. This same committee worked to

review and recommend changes to the Criteria for Faculty Evaluation in order to eliminate gender bias and items that are extremely difficult to quantify.

There are a few things that are not necessarily action items, but I thought the faculty might like to hear:

- Melanie Marks worked with Dick Bratcher and Chief Lowe and presented a very thorough and even-handed summary of the parking situation.
- An ad hoc committee on Graduate Studies has been assembled. They've been charged with examining the relationship between Graduate Studies and the institution at large, particularly in regard to organization and committee structure, governance and policy development and to make recommendations to the Senate no later than 1 November 2007.
- The Committee on Minority Faculty Recruitment will be making a report at the next Senate Meeting.
- Thanks to Susan May and Bob Lynch, the Senate now has its own webpage that's accessible by everyone and archives all our materials.

I thought I'd mention that the President's Advisory Committee, which is made up of the Executive Committee and the Representative to the BOV has also been busy this year. We've had 3 meetings with President Cormier and as a result have also met with Frank Moore and Carol Coulter (separately, of course) to discuss difficulties and concerns in their individual areas. Also, after a discussion at PAC, President Cormier promised to reinstitute Convocation awards. The Faculty Awards Committee is drawing up categories and criteria.

Finally, what this report cannot reflect are the thoughtful deliberations and debates that accompany the topics which appear on the agenda, whether action items or no, as well as the work that goes on behind the scenes in the various committees.

I'm proud to have served as your Senate chair this year.