

REPORT TO: Longwood Faculty Senate

FROM: Chuck Blauvelt

RE: Faculty Senate of Virginia – Meeting of October 16, 2010

DATE: November 9, 2010

The Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSV) met for its regularly scheduled Fall 2010 meeting at Longwood University on the morning of October 16, 2010. A special thanks to Ed Kinman, the outgoing Longwood representative to the FSV who helped with all the arrangements. FSV members all expressed satisfaction with Longwood hospitality. Thanks Ed!

The meeting opened with introduction of the members, approval of previous minutes and the Treasurers report. I should note that special guests included two members of the AAUP who were present to represent their views on the upcoming Legislative Agenda in Richmond.

The morning was spent reviewing bills that will soon be or have been discussed in Richmond. I will touch only briefly on each one. Please contact me for more detailed information.

- Dependent Tuition – A bill will be presented to provide for a 50% tuition waiver in any Virginia public institution of higher education for dependent children under the age of 21 of full-time faculty in Virginia public institutions of higher education who have been employed for an aggregate period of 7 years. The FSV and the AAUP support this bill. There was very little discussion and no dissent.
- ORP Retirement Plan Conversion – This proposal would allow people in optional retirement plans with 10 years of service to use the money in their retirement plans to purchase years of service in VRS. This would be a one-time, irrevocable decision. The FSV has found a legislator to take this forward but there is almost no hope that it will pass. Initially this was found to be fiscally neutral, thus increasing expectations that it would be accepted. However, recent analysis has shown otherwise, thus dimming hopes of its passage.
- HJ Resolution on International Education – A House Joint resolution will be proposed that emphasizes the importance of enhancing international education opportunities for students in Virginia institutions of higher education and that encourages institutions to provide these opportunities. The FSV and AAUP support this resolution.
- The FSV considered but did not decide to take forward or support at this time bills concerning: not allowing state funds to be used to compensate university foundation staff; faculty representation on the SCHEV board; requiring on-line courses to be listed as such on official transcripts; the requiring college and university presidents to identify all their sources of compensation and to disclose the relationship of these individuals or organizations to the university. Discussions on each of these items will continue.

After the previous legislative concerns were discussed the FSV took up the following issues:

- In light of the Attorney General's investigation concerning global warming research at UVA, the FSV decided to send a letter to the Governor supporting the concept of academic freedom.

- The Norfolk State University representative expressed concern that the Board of Visitors had conducted their presidential search without faculty input or even knowledge of the proceedings. The FSV chair agreed to contact Norfolk State officials to explain the normal expectations for faculty participation in presidential searches.

The FSV will meet in Richmond on January 13 and again at Christopher Newport University on April 11. If you have any questions concerning this report, or concerns you want me to take to the FSV, please let me know.

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