

REPORT TO: Longwood Faculty Senate

FROM: Chuck Blauvelt

RE: Faculty Senate of Virginia – Meeting of April 9, 2011

DATE: April 12, 2011

The Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSV) met for its regularly scheduled spring 2011 meeting at Norfolk State University on April 9, 2011. Those in attendance represented Radford University (2 reps), Mary Washington University, Norfolk State University, Virginia State University, Mountain Empire Community College, and Tidewater Community College. The meeting opened with approval of previous minutes and the Treasurers report. I should note that only 3 universities and 4 community colleges have paid their dues for this academic year. Longwood, along with VCU and VSU, are the 3 universities that have paid and Southside Community College is one of the community colleges.

The morning was spent discussing the 5% pay raise/VRS reduction and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Almost all information presented had been previously shared at Longwood either through Bob Webber's presentation to the faculty (When is 5% not 5%?) or through our activities related to the Governor's plan and our Six-Year Plan (BOV meeting, info to general faculty, AAC, college meetings, etc.). I would say that for the most part, information we have received at Longwood concerning these two items has been as or even more complete than the information shared at this meeting. I will say, however, that most in attendance were very interested in this information and seemed unaware of the details of both of these matters. Kudos to everyone at Longwood who has been involved in keeping us informed and up to date on these important issues.

Next, we briefly discussed ways of improving communication to and from the FSVA. The President, Jim Lollar of Radford, informed us that a new website is in the works that should facilitate the dissemination of information.

The afternoon began with the discussion of campus issues brought to the Senate by various parties. The first item was a request from the Virginia Conference of the AAUP that both the FSVA and the individual college and university senates throughout the Commonwealth endorse the *Seven Principles for the Campaign for the Future Higher Education*. The FSVA voted unanimously to endorse these principles. We were then asked to take these Principles to our senates to seek an "endorsement". I have attached a copy of this document to this report. If you deem it worthy of discussion and endorsement, please let me know the outcome so that I can inform the FSVA whether the Longwood Senate officially endorses these principles.

The document I have submitted explains the details of the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education. In a nutshell it is movement begun by the California Federation of Teachers to consider re-orienting the dominant narrative in US Higher Education. They will kick off their national campaign at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on May 17, 2011. They have sought and received endorsements from the AAUP, AFT, NEA, and the Virginia Conference of the AAUP (on 4/2/11). The Longwood Senate is certainly free to decide to endorse this or not. All an endorsement does is add the Longwood Senate to the roster of "endorsed by..."

Next, the president presented an issue for discussion on behalf of George Mason University (not in attendance.) They are interested in seeking legislation that requires presidents of public colleges and universities to divulge all sources of compensation related income. Currently only the state paid official salary and related benefits are required to be made public. There is some concern that with the increase of presidential compensation “packages” that often include funding from third parties that it could become difficult to know where a president’s “true loyalties” lie. Because the representative from George Mason was not present, this was offered largely as an informational item at this time. It will be discussed in the fall, and I welcome any guidance from the Longwood Senate if they choose to offer it.

Norfolk State again reported on the difficulty of getting the Board of Visitors to include faculty input on the selection of a new president. A brief survey of the members showed that there was a wide range of procedures followed when presidential searches were conducted. They ranged from input from a wide range of constituents with a completely open process, to limited range of input and semi-open process, to no input with a completely secret process (Oh by the way, let us introduce you to your new president.) What seems true is that there is no uniform process for the selection of presidents across the public colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The meeting closed with the election of officers and the setting of meeting dates for next year. James Lollar will continue as president. The meetings for next year have been tentatively scheduled for October 29 at Christopher Newport and March 31 at Radford or J. S. Reynolds.

As an endnote to my first year on FSVA, it seems that the general structure of these meetings is to discuss legislative/political concerns in the morning followed by campus concerns brought by the individual universities in the afternoon. If there are any issues that the Longwood Senate would like input on from the FSVA, please let me know and I would be happy to place them on the agenda. Likewise, I will occasionally be asked to take your input back to the FSVA. As described above, I would currently like to invite your input on two subjects. First, whether or not you have chosen to endorse the “Seven Principles” and second, whether there are opinions on the presidential compensation disclosure idea that will be pursued by George Mason. I do not judge either of these issues as urgent or absolutely necessary for you to consider, however, if you choose to I will take the information forward to the FSVA.

If any of you wish to speak with me personally considering matters of the FSVA, please do not hesitate to call.

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