

REPORT ON
FACULTY SENATE OF VIRGINIA
MEETING OF 10/29/11

BY: Chuck Blauvelt
TO: Faculty Senate of Longwood University

The Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA) held its' regularly scheduled fall meeting at James Madison University on October 29, 2011. Institutions represented were as follows: Radford University; James Madison University; Mary Washington University; Virginia State University; Norfolk State University; Longwood University and the Community Colleges of Wytheville; Mountain Empire; and Tidewater.

The minutes of the April 9, 2011 meeting were approved without changes.

The treasurer, Suzanne Summer of Mary Washington, reported holdings of over \$17,000 and noted institutions that had paid the 2010/2011 dues in full. Longwood was one of only 6 public universities reported having paid in full.

The president, Jim Lollar of Radford, reported having met with new officials in Richmond including Secretary of Education Laura Fornash and interim SCHEV director Peter Blake. In both cases, president Lollar indicated that he had a favorable impression and characterized both people as "friends of higher education".

Next the upcoming General Assembly Legislative Agenda was discussed.

- a. Dependent Tuition Waiver – The AAUP and FSVA continue to support this legislation that has been presented in the past but has failed to pass. It is expected that a sponsor will be easy to find. Arguments in favor of this include that it is common in many states (at least 28) and that in a time when faculty raises have been non-existent this is a way to attract and keep quality faculty.
- b. ORP Retirement Plan Conversion - Once again the FSVA will support legislation to allow faculty who are not in the state retirement system to make a one-time switch to the state system. There is a disagreement whether this is revenue neutral and it is not clear at this time if VRS will support this. Nevertheless, FSVA will support this legislation.
- c. Faculty Representation on SCHEV Board – The FSVA will support legislation seeking to obtain faculty representation on the SCHEV Board.
- d. It was proposed that the FSVA support legislation that requires public disclosure of all sources of compensation for the presidents of public universities. This request first presented by George Mason University last April is based on the idea that it is essential for university communities to know to whom a president might "owe allegiance". Despite the logic of this argument, the FSVA chose to not actively pursue this legislation. This was due in part to the fact that GMU representatives were not present at the April nor the current meeting. Therefore, there was little opportunity to examine the ramifications of this proposal. Secondly, president Lollar was of the opinion that despite its seeming merits, this legislation would probably have no chance of passing. BOVs argue that without the ability to put together compensation packages for presidents that included more than just state funding, that they would be unable to attract quality candidates. This being the case, there is no legal mandate for a president to report income that is not from the state.

The Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2012. Universities are encouraged to send a contingent of faculty volunteers. Volunteers will meet at V.C.U. (a co-sponsor of this event). AAUP, FSVA, and VCU representatives will provide each faculty member with an explanation of legislation we support and reasons why. Faculty will then be assigned to different legislators and spend the day meeting the legislators and lobbying for the support of legislation favorable to higher education. In order to plan for this event, faculty are encouraged to RSVP. If any Longwood faculty members choose to participate or if the Longwood Faculty Senate wishes to send a contingent, please let me know. I will inform Jim Lollar so that they will be ready for us.

Members gave reports of notable activities on their campuses.

- a. Tidewater CC expressed faculty concern that the number of unruly students was growing.
- b. Norfolk State reported that their BOV has asked for a review of their Post-Tenure Review policy.
- c. Virginia State University reported concern that a year and a half after curriculum changes had been approved by the faculty, they still had not appeared in the official catalog.
- d. Mary Washington University reported a growing and active Occupy Mary Washington movement that had been initiated by the students. Since this was a new development, she sought advice concerning how other universities were dealing with "Occupy" movements. Unfortunately, not a single representative reported being aware of "Occupy" movements on their campuses. Also, Mary Washington spoke of the inauguration of their new president.
- e. JMU reported beginning a search for a president. He reported that it was decided to do a completely "closed" search. i.e. no one will know the candidates until the new president is chosen. There is, however, faculty representation on the search committee.
- f. I reported on the inauguration of President Finnegan and also on the Academic Strategic Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm. Any members of the Longwood community who wish to speak with me concern this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me. Chuck Blauvelt, blauveltjc@longwood.edu or Ext. 2544.