

To: Faculty Senate

From: Jennifer Miskec
Chair, University Lectures Committee

Subject: Report of ULC activities for 2011-2012 academic year

Date: April 15, 2012

Committee Members (Faculty)

Peggy Agee, Department of Social Work and Communication Sciences and Disorders

David Geraghty, Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy

David Hardin, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

John Miller, Department of English and Modern Languages

Jennifer Miskec, Department of English and Modern Languages

Committee Members (Student)

Oliver Garland

Erin Kelly

Emily Davis

The University Lectures Committee is charged with three goals:

1. Promote and sustain the Faculty Colloquium series
2. Promote, sustain, and host the annual Simkins Lecture
3. Apply for the following year's Woodrow Wilson Fellow (by January)
- 3a. Host the annual Woodrow Wilson Fellow (the April a full year after the selection)

Through in-person meetings at the start of each semester and via email communications with the entire committee and between the chair and individual members, we successfully completed goals 1-2.

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Program

Our committee decided not to pursue hosting a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. The committee advised Ken Perkins that the WWF might not be a resource the University should make a priority, at least not right now. Should Longwood choose to continue its commitment to hosting a Fellow, due to the extreme time commitment involved, we propose instead that the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship should be its own committee.

Our reasons for suggesting that the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship might not need to be a

priority are diverse. In the spring of 2011, our committee secured Joan Bertin as our Spring 2012 Woodrow Wilson Fellow. However, while preparing for the Fellow's visit, the committee became concerned with what hosting would mean for the individual committee members, our colleagues, and for the University. Not only would hosting a Fellow at Longwood be an excessively time-consuming commitment for the entire committee for months prior to the Fellow's visit, not to mention the entire week of the visit, we also discovered that the cost for hosting a Fellow was going to be roughly twice what had been budgeted (\$8000+). While we were given permission to go ahead with hosting the Fellow, given the economic situation of the University and the over-commitment of many of our committee members to other University projects, the committee determined that perhaps this was not the best way to spend Longwood's money or our faculty's time.

Because some members of the Longwood community considered our relationship with the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program as being prestigious, exclusive even, the committee was surprised to discover that any institution of higher learning is eligible to host a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. Further, only private colleges get a price break on the Fellow's stipend, and there is no such thing as being a member or having special access to this program.

While it is possible that in the future, under different economic circumstances and with a different list of Fellow's to choose from (perhaps names that people have heard of and would gladly make room for in their class schedules), hosting a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship will be more meaningful. Right now, however, it seems to be both an unnecessary burden on the committee and not fiscally advantageous.

2011 and 2012 Faculty Colloquium

This year funds were provided to support three award recipients. Calls for proposals were sent to faculty during the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 semesters.

Fall

Four proposals were received. The committee selected "The Ultimate Cold Case: Forensic Archeology at a 1,000 Year-Old Amerindian Village" by Brian Bates, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. Dr. Bates' talk was well attended—more than 100 students, faculty, and community members joined us on Tuesday, November 1st, 2011, in Wygal Auditorium. The event was followed by a dessert reception.

Spring

Five proposals were received. The committee selected two winners: "It Was Sad When That Great Ship Went Down" by Dr. Deborah Welch, Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy. Dr. Welch's forthcoming talk is scheduled for April 16th, 2012. The event will be followed by a dessert reception. And "Real Life *Antiques Road Show*" by K. Johnson Bowles, LCVA, will be held on Wednesday, April 25th, 2012. The event will be followed by a dessert reception.

****We have still considered proposing a possible name change for the Faculty Colloquium. Last year some misunderstanding among students occurred about the event that it was a colloquium for faculty and not welcoming of students. The new chair of the committee may want to consider proposing changing the name of the program from “Faculty Colloquium” to “Longwood Colloquium,” for example.**

Simkins Lecture

2011

The 2011 Simkins Lecture was given by Dr. Steve Farber from the Department of Embryology at the Carnegie Institute in Baltimore. According to Dr. Farber, “Together with Ms Jamie Shuda, I have created a Science Outreach Program, [Project BioEYES](#), that incorporates life science and laboratory education using zebrafish. The outreach program has two main components: educating students and community members through hands-on tours of a Zebrafish Facility, and bringing the zebrafish to 4-12th grade classrooms for hands-on experiments. The program teaches students about science literacy, genetics, the experimental process and the cardiovascular system through the use of live zebrafish.

The mission of the Science Outreach Program is to foster an enthusiasm for science education, promote interest for future participation in a biology-related field, and allow all students the opportunity to learn life science through a hands-on, student-centered approach to instruction. The goals of the program encompass educating the community about life science and incorporating live research as the primary teaching tool. We provide our services to all students and teachers regardless of community, poverty or race. Project BioEYES is currently serving children in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Lehigh and Notre Dame public and private school districts.

This program has garnered significant excitement among primary school faculty in the region and the scientific press. Since we began, over 10,000 students have participated in our in-class zebrafish unit.”

The Simkins Lecture was attended by roughly 60 people, students, staff, faculty, and community members.

2012

We are currently in the process of selecting from the proposals for the 2012 Simkins Lecture. The deadline was April 13th. Because we only received two proposals, we should have a decision made within a week. The CFP went out to all staff and faculty twice, on March 19th and April 4th.

Future Goals: Improved Publicity and Promotion

For both the Simkins and the Faculty Colloquium Lectures we used the Design Lab to create professional posters to advertise this event. This increased visibility of the scheduled events. However, we would love to receive more proposals from faculty. I did consult with the Design Lab on creating a brand for the Faculty Lectures committee, and a poster to post in departmental office to raise awareness of the programs year-round, but the Design Lab's proposals weren't terrible good. Revisiting that goal with a new design team next year might be a job for the new chair of this committee.