The University Faculty
The University of Richmond

Minutes of the Meeting of December 10, 2009

Call to Order
Provost Steve Allred called the meeting to order at 3:06 PM in the Alice Haynes Room of the Tyler Haynes Commons. He noted that while once it had been the goal to vote on a possible reform to general education requirements at this meeting, we do not want to be rushed and suggested the idea of an additional open meeting before voting.

Informational Items
1. Change to WELL 085 (Alcohol Awareness) Requirement
2. In November 2009, the University Senate approved a proposal to create a new interdisciplinary major in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law (PPEL).

Consent Agenda
1. Minutes of the September 16 and 24, 2009 meetings (available online)
2. Minutes of the October 8, special-called meeting (available online)
3. Proposed New Student Organizations (available online) – Max Vest
The above three items were approved without dissent or abstention.

Reports
Provost Allred reported on the Faculty Development Center. Joan Neff is chairing the Hiring Committee which will screen candidates and conduct interviews in February. He also noted that the Robins School of Business dean’s search is moving forward. Finalists will be brought to campus this spring following airport interviews in February. Lastly the Provost noted that budget planning is continuing. More information sessions are likely planned in order to support the concept of transparency.

University Faculty Council (UFC) President Doug Hicks presented updates on five items receiving attention from UFC: the creation of a new UFC subcommittee to work with the administration on childcare options; investigation into the possibility of a more flexible early retirement process; discussions with Carl Sorenson about the benefits process; the investigation of the search process for a new position in Philosophy related to the new major Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law; and attempts to work with the Board of Trustees to create a clear process when searching for a University President.

New Business
1. Proposal requiring Field of Study approval of Italian 321 (Italian Literature in Context) - Mark Rhodes
The motion passed without opposition.

2. Recommendation from the Committee on Faculty Status to grant faculty status to the Associate Director of the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement - Jim Gibson

After two brief questions from the floor for Gibson, the motion passed without opposition.

3. Changes to Tenure and Promotion for Outside Candidates as Part of the Hiring Process (Section C. 4.) of the Robins School of Business Personnel Policies and Procedures - Bob Schmidt

The motion passed without opposition.

4. Discussion of the General Education Revision Committee proposal

Gene Anderson, chair of the General Education Revision Committee, introduced his committee and its report and proposals. He proceeded to provide a history of its meetings and open hearings. The committee has met with Business, Law, leadership, A&S, and student groups in perhaps fifty hours of meetings. The proposal was reviewed and endorsed by the entire ad hoc Curriculum Task Force. Anderson noted some of the changes that were made since the progress report.

A long discussion with comments, questions, and responses followed. Among the matters discussed were issues related to differences between areas of study and fields of study, the possible mechanics of cross-listing courses, how courses would be classified, assessment issues, whether the strategic plan requires certain elements in our general education, and the procedures by which the group might vote on the proposals.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Craft, University Faculty Secretary