

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**March 11, 2003**

**3:30 pm in HH 119**

**Minutes**

**Present:** E. Curtin, J. DeRidder, N. Hopson, V. Hutchinson, R. Long, D. Marshall, D. Mathews, J. McCallops, P. McDermott, R. McKenzie, K. Milner, S. Muller, M. O'Loughlin, D. Parker, D. Rieck, D. Rotondo, D. Whaley

**Absent:** M. Mitchell

**Announcements** - Rich McKenzie, Chair

Dr. McKenzie explained that the Membership and Elections Committee will be sending out a referendum for a Bylaw Change proposal from the Academic Policies committee to change the committee make-up. It is important that at least 75 faculty members vote on the proposal. The committee supports the change to insure timely and insightful input from a school representative when grievances or appeals are sent to them.

**Remarks from the Provost** - David Buchanan

Dr. Buchanan reported that the changes in the Latin Honors Policy recommended by the Faculty Senate will take effect in Fall 04 instead of Fall 03. Because of the snow days adding time to the academic year in public schools on the Eastern Shore, the second summer school session will begin on June 23 instead of June 16.

Dr. Buchanan will be meeting with Lisa Seldomridge and the Faculty Welfare Committee to discuss changes in criteria for sabbatical selection. There is a need for a short-term plan and an on-going discussion. Sabbatical requests are due on March 15, the day after the planned meeting. Consequently, that deadline may need to be more flexible so that people have the information that they need before submitting a proposal.

**Approval Of Minutes**

Feb 25: unanimous

**Business:**

Academic Freedom and Tenure - Doug Marshall

Tenure Policies and Procedures Proposals

The concerns about the proposed policy were discussed at length. Dr. Marshall accepted a friendly amendment emphasizing that tenure recommendations are "primarily the responsibility of the Department's Tenured faculty" as opposed to Tenured faculty in general. The most important issue discussed related to the minimum number of people on a Tenure Review Committee. An informal vote was taken: 11 senators voted for 3 as the minimum number and 5 senators voted for 5 as the minimum number. Numerous other concerns were raised, among them the extent to which faculty on sabbatical and on leave of absence can participate in the tenure review process, the relationship between tenure review committees' and chairs' reviews, and the relationship between annual merit reviews and annual tenure reviews. Dr. Marshall will take the points discussed back to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

Faculty Hour in the Gym - Travis Dettman, President SGA

Mr. Dettman questioned the designation of the Faculty/Staff hour at the gym between 5 and 6 Mon through Friday. He believes the gym is under utilized during those times and wanted senators to consider recommending dropping it because many students found that hour a good time to workout. According to Mr. Dettman, with increased classes in the gym, the students, who can use it any time other than the designated hour or when classes are in session, are allowed fewer and fewer hours. One senator expressed agreement with the SGA position; others disagreed and asked that more information be gathered about the use of the facility as well as about the extent of the student dissatisfaction with the current policy. Dr. Dudley-Eshbach expressed agreement with the stated student position and suggested a trial period of opening up the hour. A senator pointed out that the designated time would be almost impossible to retrieve if it is forfeited at this time.

Report on Cost Savings Email - Rich McKenzie

Dr. McKenzie reminded senators of the list of cost savings proposals that he had received and asked them to send any others to him. The proposals will be passed on to the administration.

Faculty Welfare Report - Lisa Seldomridge

Dr. Seldomridge mentioned the upcoming meeting with the Faculty Welfare committee and Dr. Buchanan to discuss changes in the sabbatical policy. She said that the committee had not been consulted before the changes that affected sabbaticals for Fall 03. She expects that there will need to be leniency in deadlines for the Spring 04 applications.

Dr. McKenzie noted that Dr. Buchanan had agreed to the previously distributed Six Principles for faculty involvement in future decisions concerning cutbacks.

Membership and Elections Report - David Rieck

Dr. Rieck reported that Membership and Elections committee will be sending out the ballots for the spring elections soon but that they will be accepting no write-in votes. Too often there have been ties with several people receiving one vote.

**Adjournment: 5:25**

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