

## **Faculty Senate Meeting**

**May 13, 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, M. Mitchell, S. Muller, M. O' Loughlin, D. Parker, D. Rieck, D. Rotondo, D. Whaley

**Absent:** K. Milner

### **Announcements - Rich McKenzie, Chair**

Dr. McKenzie reported that President Dudley-Eshbach would be unable to attend the open faculty meeting scheduled for May 14 because of emergency oral surgery. He asked for a sense of the senate about whether or not to postpone the meeting until the fall. 13 were in favor of postponing the meeting; 2 were opposed to it. Meeting was postponed.

Dr. McKenzie reminded the senate that the transition meeting and the election of officers will take place on Friday, May 16 in Henson 109.

### **Remarks from the Provost - David Buchanan**

Dr. Buchanan reported that the System was considering asking permission to raise tuition more than they had previously planned. Perhaps 5% more than the 9% that they had been considering. Salisbury University is also proposing that it be allowed to raise tuition even further so that tuition would be as much as Frostberg's.

The budget is still up in the air with Donald Schaefer indicating his belief that the System had been hit enough. We do not know the position of the third member of the Board of Public Works, the group that will finally determine how to cut the budget.

Dr. Dudley-Eshbach added that she had proposed to the Board of Regents that they accept a floor of no less than 65% of the guidelines for funding, which would help us out if another round of cuts was necessary. All of our indicators are among the best in the state, yet we are funded at a lower rate than Frostberg or Towson.

### **Approval Of Minutes**

April 29: unanimous

### **Business:**

Academic Long Range Planning Committee Announcement - David Rieck

Dr. Rieck reminded the senate that he had invited nine of them to attend the day-long meeting to discuss a draft of the Long Range Plan. He asked senators whom he had invited to let him know whether or not they can come. He will invite others if necessary.

Tenure Principles - Micheal O'Loughlin/Don Whaley

Dr. O' Loughlin proposed that the Faculty Senate accept the statement about the importance of tenure that he and Mr. Whaley had written. They accepted two friendly amendments to their

document. The amended proposal is as follows:

### **The Importance of Tenure**

The Faculty Senate affirms that the institution of tenure is a pillar of academic life in a university.

Tenure allows for the creation of a community of scholars experienced and schooled in a culture of academic freedom that gives rise to robust inquiry, dialogue, criticism and debate. Tenure secures independence of mind because it provides sufficient job security and longevity such that freedom of inquiry can be pursued without fear of loss of position. A stable, free and independent-thinking faculty provides the intellectual atmosphere and guidance necessary to carry out the central mission of Salisbury University, the education of undergraduate and graduate students. Without tenure and tenured faculty, this atmosphere is endangered and likely to be lost.

The Faculty Senate affirms as a basic principle that the University must protect tenure during this period of financial stress. If the resources of the academic program must be reduced because of financial exigency, this reduction should be accomplished without the loss of any tenured faculty. Any retrenchment process involving serious reduction or elimination of programs should entail the retention of tenured faculty to remain in the scaled-back programs or to be reassigned to some other program or department in the university.

After lengthy discussion the vote on the motion was 10 in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

### **Senate Position on FAC Request for Forum By-laws change.**

Dr. Rotondo proposed that the Faculty adopt as its official position of the faculty on the proposed FAC Forum Bylaw changes:

The Faculty Senate directs the Faculty Senate President to communicate with the entire faculty urging them to vote against the Forum By-laws changes proposed by the Fiscal Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Forum for the following reasons.

1. The proposed changes are unnecessary for the continued operation of the committee as specified by Article V, section 1, Part 2 of the Forum By-laws.
2. The stated goal by the current chair of the FAC of the proposed changes is to allow the FAC flexibility in reporting directly to the President's Executive Council rather than the prescribed requirement to report to the Forum Executive Committee when the urgency of time is an issue. The By-laws proposal does not address this issue with the necessary clarity.
3. If the By-laws change did adequately address the time issue above, then it would be in direct contradiction of Article V, section 1, Part 2 of the Forum by-laws. To avoid an internal contradiction, this section should be changed as well.

The Faculty Senate goes on record as supporting Article V, Section 1, Part 2 of the current Forum By-laws that directs all Forum Committees to report their findings to the Forum

Executive Committee before submitting a report to any administrative office or officer.

After discussion concerning the relationship of the committee bylaws to the bylaws of the Forum, the vote was 14 in favor, 2 against and 1 abstention. The motion passed.

### **Discussion of Budget Cutting Principles**

Dr. Rieck proposed that the following be adopted as the official position of the faculty on budget cutting principles.

The Faculty Senate, recognizing that the core mission of Salisbury University is to provide direct educational benefits to our students, believes that any and all cost cutting efforts should lie outside those programs, faculty and staff providing direct education to our students.

The Faculty Senate endorses the following principles to meet current and future reductions in State of Maryland budget allocations to Salisbury University.

1. Before taking any other actions all possible steps should be taken to increase funding from all available sources to offset the decrease in state allocations. This would include, but would not be limited to, tuition and the utilization of auxiliary funds and resources.
2. Any necessary budget reductions should first come from areas of the university that least affect the direct educational operations of the university. This would include, but would not be limited to, administration, support services and other areas that are ancillary to the direct educational operations of the university.
3. Additional salary reduction should be a last resort measure. Any and all salary reductions should be temporary and kept to an absolute minimum.
4. In the extreme circumstance that personnel cuts become necessary, no cuts should be made among personnel directly involved with teaching, including full-time contractual faculty.
5. Any decisions about budget cutting at this time, whether by the administration or the FAC, should be demonstrably consistent with the above principles.

The vote was 15 in favor and one abstention. The motion passed.

### **Other business:**

Dr. McDermott asked the provost if he had heard anything about the re-writing of contracts in Annapolis. He is particularly interested in seeing any changes. Dr. Buchanan said that he had heard nothing about this, but he will look into it. Dr. McDermott is interested in seeing a red-lined version that highlights the changes.

**Adjournment: 5:00p.m.**

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