

Faculty Conference Report

March 17, 2000

I. Quorum

Due to the presence of an insufficient number of faculty, business cannot be conducted in the absence of a quorum (57). Approval of February's meeting minutes was postponed.

II. Opening Remarks – Dr. Thomas Moore, Chair of Faculty Conference

The Board of Trustees met in February and attended a weekend retreat. The Board approved a bond issue to fund the remainder of the Sims renovation. The renovation will begin in May and should be completed before the beginning of the Fall 2001 semester. At the retreat, the Board discussed capital projects that may be required to meet projected future enrollment. A partial list of capital projects includes library construction or renovation, Breazeale Hall renovation, Burns Auditorium renovation, and the construction of an auditorium for Thurmond. A timetable was not established for any project. The Board also discussed teacher education and the general education project. The general education project discussion included the information from the General Education Task Force report given at the February 11, 2000 Faculty Conference.

III. Report from the President – Dr. Anthony J. DiGiorgio

President DiGiorgio is presently in Tucson, Arizona.

IV. Report from the Vice-President for Academic Affairs - Dr. Melford Wilson

Dr. Wilson made several announcements. Dr. Jim Johnston will lead a retreat for Graduate Studies this coming Thursday at The Shack. The meeting will focus on graduate enrollment. Faculty wishing to attend are asked to let Dr. Wilson know so that additional materials may be prepared. Faculty are encouraged to give their comments on the dean candidates to the appropriate search committee. Dr. Wilson thanked the two search committees for their dedicated service. Dr. Wilson also thanked the departments, colleges, and campus committees for their work on dean tenurability. The university committee is meeting soon to vote on the tenure eligibility of deans. The vote will impact information on tenure eligibility provided in offers to the successful dean candidates. Using their expertise to help others, the Accounting Club is preparing tax returns for the international students on Saturday. The club is also assisting the rest of the student body. Changes to performance funding are being proposed. The proposals may make it more difficult for any university to obtain an "exceeds" rating but easier to demonstrate improvement.

V. Committee Reports

A. Academic Council - Dr. Janice Chism

The Academic Council report required Conference action and was tabled until business can be conducted in the absence of a quorum.

B. General Education Task Force Update – Professor Marilyn Sarow

The competency groups continue to meet and hope to have competencies for the general education program by the end of the summer. The committee chairs are as follows: technology - Dr. Will Thacker; quantitative reasoning – Dr. Bill Rogers; writing – Dr. Marge Tebo-Messina, critical thinking – Dr. Wanda Deleo. By Monday, faculty should receive the proposal for developing the first new general education course, Human Experience I. If time permits, an outline will also be developed for the critical thinking course. The task force would like participants from across disciplines who are willing to teach the new course during the second semester. Because the course is expected to require writing, writing faculty are encouraged to apply. The project requires about three weeks of summer work. Participant compensation is equivalent to the pay for one summer course. According to Dr. Wilson, the total compensation available for the participants is fixed. The first course outline is expected to be presented to the faculty in the fall. Applications may be submitted to Dr. Ray Dockery for review by the General Education Committee.

C. Faculty Personnel Committee – Dr. Laura DuFresne

A motion was made and seconded to suspend the rules to conduct the election because the election is already scheduled to remain open until noon on

Monday. The motion was approved without discussion. A motion was then made and seconded to extend the time to vote at the library until 5 PM on Monday. The motion was passed without discussion. Dr. DuFresne will send a campus wide email message notifying the Conference members of the time extension for voting. The ballots are available at the library's reference desk.

D. Campus Computing Committee – Professor Larry Mitlin

The draft of the proposed web policy is available on the web. The policy was revised to reflect concerns raised by the faculty. Faculty are asked to email Professor Mitlin for the draft's URL. University Relations is presently responsible for maintaining the quality and standards of the University's web pages. Faculty continue to raise concerns over University Relations authority over the appearance of faculty web pages.

E. Faculty Personnel Committee Elections – Dr. Laura DuFresne

As the election ballots were distributed, faculty were referred to the sample ballot distributed with today's Conference agenda. Dr. DuFresne introduced each committee's candidates and asked for additional nominations. There were not any nominations from the floor.

The Kerley method was explained, votes cast, and ballots collected.

I. Quorum

There was an insufficient number of faculty present to conduct business without a quorum. Approval of the Conference's February minutes and Academic Council's business were deferred until the next Conference.

IV. Old Business

There was not any old business.

VII. New Business

There was not any new business.

VIII. Announcements

The next Faculty Conference is on April 21, 2000. All standing committee chairs are asked to submit their committee reports to Dr. Moore by April 7, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele C. Henderson
Secretary