

The Faculty Senate at the University of Virginia
Friday, November 20, 2009 – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
The Dome Room of the Rotunda

Meeting Minutes

Ann Hamric, Chair of the Faculty Senate and Professor in the School of Nursing, called the meeting to order.

John T. Casteen III, President of the University, spoke about the University's international activities and about the status of the University campaign.

China: In recent Chinese rankings of international universities, the top 100 are considered "world class." UVA is ranked 91st, while other major U.S. research universities were downgraded. [More information can be found online at <http://gse.sjtu.edu.cn/WCU/wcu-3.htm>.] Mr. Casteen spoke to one of sessions of the 3rd International Conference on World-Class Universities in Shanghai. At the conference, the idea developed for a center for the study of university rankings. This center will examine the metrics used by *U.S. News and World Report*, on which it bases its college rankings. The College of Arts and Sciences opened operations at Peking University in November. Mr. Casteen held alumni events in China and found vigorous alumni groups.

Universitas 21: The United Nations and UNESCO have designated U21 as one of several agencies to oversee international work. A U21 effort has been underway for a number of years to create an internet-based educational program for less developed parts of the world, and that effort will likely be managed from Asia to cut costs.

Campaign Update: We are at 68% of our goal, with 73% of the time elapsed. The current value of the endowment is \$4.226 billion. We've made up a large part of the loss, due to an extraordinary job by UVIMCO. The State's budget continues to be troubled. Even our 6% that comes from the State is at risk in this budget climate.

A question was raised about the potential for distance education through internet, since the School of Continuing and Professional Studies already provides educational opportunities around Virginia using internet. Why hasn't that been natural area of growth?

Mr. Casteen said that the impetus for that would have to come from the individual schools; the market is there for graduate level education, graduate and undergraduate public health, and business courses. Faculty compensation would be on speculation. Mr. Casteen suggested that the project would require ten years to establish and might be very profitable.

Ann Hamric added that the Chinese delegation was interested also in the organization of the Faculty Senate.

Bob Kemp, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, brought a recommendation for a vote on a new masters degree in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies. The Committee members

unanimously support this degree. After Dan Lefkowitz, chair of the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures, and Clo Phillips, the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, replied to questions, after which a vote was taken and unanimously supported.

Brian Pusser, of the Task Force on Scholarly Publications and Authors' Rights, reported that the vote originally scheduled to take place at this meeting on the Task Force's resolution has been postponed. At the most recent Task Force meeting, it was concluded that sufficient faculty consensus on the resolution does not exist at this time. Key points of contention are: the mandatory nature of resolution, despite a direct mechanism for opting out, the mandatory nature has been source of contention; and the nature of the repository and who has responsibility for it.

An extensive question-and-answer session followed. It was suggested that more dissenting voices be included on the Task Force.

One question was what the objections would be to a university-wide, all-faculty vote on the issue

Ms. Hamric noted that this raises deeper question: what is representative role of the Senate? If we are not representative, then yes, we may be right to do an all-faculty vote. She does not think this has been done before. Mr. Pusser pointed out that all meetings held by the Task Force for different departments have been open to faculty; the Task Force has tried to take the debate well beyond senators, to help senators in their deliberations and to get word out to all faculty.

As a next step, the Task Force will meet again, perhaps larger and with a somewhat different composition, to take up the issues discussed today.

Ms. Hamric expressed the hope that those who have not had a chance to meet with Task Force members will do so before the beginning of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45.

Submitted by Kevin Lee, Secretary of the Faculty Senate.