

Faculty Senate meeting
February 8, 2011
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Newcomb Hall Commonwealth Room

Vote on Revision of By-Laws

Ann Hamric called for a vote to approve the revised by-laws. Voting in favor: 38. Chair Gweneth West opened the floor for discussion on how to get a quorum for the vote. The Senate approved holding the meeting unadjourned until the will of absent senators could be ascertained. It was moved that we have an email vote, sending a request for their vote to every senator not present. The by-laws do not say that people have to vote in a meeting, but that two-thirds of the members have to approve. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

The Executive Council is concerned about how we engage the entire faculty to become involved in major projects around University, especially those having to do with Pres. Sullivan's major initiatives – like expanded classroom use in J-Terms and summer sessions. Please let members of the Executive Council know if you are willing to teach during those sessions.

President's Report

President Sullivan reported that the EVP/COO search committee has discussed a progress report on current candidates; it will meet again on February 18 to review prospects and select the first round of candidates for interviews in early March. We hope to make an appointment by late spring.

The President has appointed the EVP/Provost search committee, which includes a number of faculty members, some deans, staff members, a grad student, and an undergrad student.

Both the House and the Senate of the General Assembly have passed budget. Now they will appoint conferees to reconcile the discrepancies in the two bills. It appears that the University's overall appropriation will be decreased. Much of the discussion now is to see how much we can get added back. Our job is to see if we can corner some of the Governor's proposed \$50M additional for U.Va. President Sullivan went with Leonard to meet with 25 legislators, including the Black Caucus. They talked about retirement proposals, the Top Jobs Bill, and U.Va.'s plan for slow and controlled growth.

U.Va. presented three budget amendments critical to the University. One is for faculty start-up packages; the need for these is crucial to our ability to hire. Rotunda repairs were also part of the discussions. U.Va. also requested that Medicaid funding be restored to 100% per patient. With federal matching dollars, the impact is doubled.

Retirement Funding: The president is concerned about the Governor's proposed changes to retirement funding. Employees in the VRS retirement plan would contribute 5% of salary to their retirement. VRS is a defined-benefit system: retirees are guaranteed a certain amount for the rest of their lives. The Governor's proposal also reduces the state contribution to the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP), a defined contribution plan, from 10.4% to 8.5%. The ORP primarily serves faculty, who receive retirement benefits based on market yields from their individual investment plan accounts. The Governor's proposed

change reduces the compensation package for University employees who have had no salary increases for three years. The President is convening several groups of faculty experts to see if U.Va. can offer different ideas from those that have been proposed. Both the House and the Senate want to amend the Governor's proposal. Each has introduced a different amendment, and both are looking for a solution.

Top Jobs Bill: The Governor included an additional \$50M for higher education in his jobs bill. It encourages higher enrollment in STEM fields, increased degree completion, investment in technology-enhanced education, and more efficient use of facilities. The bill creates a Higher Education Advisory Committee; it has been recommended that it include presidents of universities and colleges, and the Senate will amend the bill accordingly. The Committee will calculate the cost of education for each school based on each school's six-year plan. At the end, each university will have its cost of education calculated, and the state contribution subtracted. U.Va. is being compared to peer institutions. One controversial part of the bill is that private institutions also receive incentive funding. The Governor wants to include them to help meet the goal of 100,000 new degrees. Colette Sheehy, the Vice President for Management and Budget, and colleagues from other institutions have done a great job to help improve these bills.

At the February Board of Visitors meeting, the BOV will take action on a plan to increase enrollment by 1,400 undergrads and 100 grad students; it would create 980 spaces for undergrad Virginians, but would let us fill the rest of the places with out-of-state students. We won't agree to the increase if we don't receive additional funding from the State. The House budget proposes investing in a public-private collaboration with Cisco. The collaboration would provide high quality video imaging for classroom uses.

Provost's Report

The Provost discussed six initiatives that have arisen out of the Commission on the Future of the University (COFU). In each, there's a "one and only," something that distinguishes the University. Justin Thompson deserves the most credit for keeping us on track.

- 1) Jefferson Public Citizens Program – the first of its kind in the country. This program was quietly shaped by Milton Adams, who has raised a good deal of funding for it.
- 2) Institute for Faculty Advancement – Gertrude and Sharon have shepherded this project. Half of all department chairs have been through the faculty development program Leadership in Academic Matters (LAM).
- 3) CASTL (Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning) – Bob Pianta has become world famous for this program, which provides a new observational assessment system to determine teaching quality. It started as a program to improve the teaching of children, and now has progressed to higher education.
- 4) SHANTI (Sciences, Humanities and the Arts Network of Technological Initiatives) – James Hilton, the Vice President and Chief Information Officer, is showing way on this. It has become a great success; 90 projects have come out of this.
- 5) In science, technology and research, Tom Skalak, the Vice President for Research, has brought forth pan-university initiatives focusing on important areas, e.g., a minor in sustainability. The UVA Bay Game has become well known throughout the

U.S. and elsewhere. Tom successfully recruited Mark Croll, who is revamping whole patent process and technology transfer system.

- 6) Gowher Rizvi, the Vice Provost for International Programs, has put a group together that has reported on how to evaluate international programs.

Question-and-Answer Session for the President and the Provost:

Q: We are talking about adding 1400 undergrads in 4-5 years; when you say we need resources from the State to do that – how much are we talking about? How feasible it is that the State would provide that?

President: The State now gives us \$8,500 per Virginia resident. We wouldn't want less than that.

Q: Does that include what it really takes to educate a student – TAs, space, staff, etc.?

President: It does not include start-up money, but it includes everything else in the operational budget; it is what we have to work with in addition to tuition. Students are now paying more than the State pays.

Q: There is going to be a tremendous bottleneck in math, because there are fewer faculty now than when I first came; more faculty will be needed for all additional STEM students.

President: If we are going to teach additional STEM students, we will need more funding; but these students are hypothetical now. We have to rely on the deans to help make decisions about where to put new faculty.

Q: It's A&S as well as Engineering.

President: We'll look at all that, but my job right now is to get money. And if we don't get any more State money for additional students, we won't have additional students.

Gweneth: Faculty members need to talk to their deans about these issues.

Provost: The group that spearheaded this is the associate deans.

Q: How are we doing on faculty recruitment and retention?

Provost: Statistics show retention is higher. We have held onto people out of love, not raises. The spirit of people staying and saying they love it here is amazing.

Inauguration Week

Gweneth invited people from the Inaugural Committee to talk about the opportunities available for faculty to participate.

Sandy Gilliam, University Protocol and History Officer: gave a quick rundown of past inaugurations. People have commented that President Sullivan arrived at the end of July but will not be inaugurated until April 15. There is a precedent for that – Alderman did the same. It is great that we have had time to prepare for a true inaugural ceremony.

Stewart Ackerly, student member of the BOV: spoke about student participation in the Inauguration. He has formed subcommittee of 15 students including undergrads, grads, and Ph.D. students. The academic symposium is on Thursday; the committee would appreciate faculty being accommodating to students so they can participate. They also want students to be ushers, and to participate in service projects and the Volksmarch. If anyone has suggestions in ways to involve students, please let him know.

Tom Skalak – Research Poster Competition: The idea of the competition is to make the ideas of faculty and students visible in a setting where there’s a whole week during which we come together. The competition is now open to receive posters. You can enter whatever your work is, even if it doesn’t fit with the poster format. All faculty are encouraged to send posters. Winners’ posters will be displayed in the Rotunda for the entire week. New friendships and new collaborations may arise out of this week.

Robert Pianta, Dean of the Curry School of Education – Academic Symposium: The President has centered the academic conference around using evidence for teaching and learning. This positions us as a potential national leader on this topic. Lee Shulman, president emeritus of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, will deliver the keynote speech. The steering committee has done a terrific job. The symposium includes lots of ideas that will offer momentum going forward to continue the discussion.

Bob Sweeney, Senior Vice President for Development and Public Affairs: The development staff has spent a semester on the road with the President, visiting every important donor and prospect. All have been invited to the Inauguration. This is expected to add value to the donors’ relationship with the President.

Pam Higgins, Director of Major Events and co-chair of the Inauguration Committee along with Sharon Hostler – Installation Ceremony: It will be similar to graduation, with a procession down the Lawn. If you rent regalia for event, you can keep it through graduation with no additional charge. The deadline for ordering regalia is February 25.

Angela Davis, Special Assistant to the Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer - Day of Service: On Saturday morning there will be opportunities for local service, followed by a lunch in O-Hill Field. Students are being encouraged to go to faculty members and ask them to join students in a project that day. We want to see faculty, staff, and students working together.

Teresa Sullivan – Volksmarch: Health is an important part of our mission at U.Va. This activity is free, open to the public, and non-competitive. You can start any time between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and finish by 4 p.m. The route goes through the most interesting sights of U.Va. Groups from elsewhere have contacted us to participate.

Gweneth encouraged Faculty Senators to carry this information back to colleagues.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.