

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting
Willamette University
College of Liberal Arts
April 10, 2007

Dean Long “duck called” the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. with 55 faculty members in attendance. More faculty joined the meeting in progress.

The minutes from the March 13, 2007, Faculty Meeting were approved without revision.

David Craig read the meditation on signs of spring, presented in the Gregorian style of chanting.

Lee Pelton: Honorary Degree Candidate, Cao Jianming

President Pelton reiterated his belief that the faculty should have an opportunity to give its consent to honorary degrees. He explained the somewhat complicated process of nominating candidates: Criteria are broad, but the candidate needs to have made a contribution to a community; other considerations are northwest regional significance, diversity, and occasionally achievements at a young age. Without further discussion, approval of the final candidate, Cao Jianming, was unanimous.

Don Negri: Academic Council

Student members of Academic Council requested that the Council and faculty reconsider the timing of Spring Break, which currently coincides with the Salem-Keizer School District break, and move it to the middle of the semester. The current schedule makes the time after break particularly hectic. A second concern of students, as explained by David Craig, is that some faculty members make major assignments due right after spring break, thus “encroaching” on the break itself. Discussion centered around families and the need to have our break coincide with the public schools. Creative solutions were suggested: a second spring break, a midsemester day, the need for an on-campus day care to make different spring breaks less of a hassle. As this issue was not an action item, Professor Negri requested a straw poll, which showed a large majority of the faculty were in favor of staying with the school district schedule. Emily Drew raised questions about staff receiving time off during spring break.

The Admissions Committee has raised the issue of standardized tests required for admission with the Council. The Committee is interested in considering the effects of making the standardized testing (SAT/ACT) requirement optional. Council will continue this discussion with the faculty possibly during the faculty retreat.

Revision of the Articles of Governance is continuing. Departmental assessments will receive comments back before the end of the year.

Don received a picnic basket and ovation for his service to AC.

Sammy Basu – Academic Programs

English major changes: approved.
Japanese/Chinese major: approved.
Sociology major: Don Negri asked a question about a cross-listed course.
Courses that are currently cross-listed will continue to be cross-listed until removal of cross-listing is requested. Approved.
New courses: approved.
Changes to existing courses: approved.

Alison Bulter asked a question about new course descriptions for registration – these are hard to locate for some students. Suggestions were advanced for making the course schedule more “fluid” for registration.

Kristi Reinholtzen: Registrar

Candidates for graduation: No discussion. The list was moved and seconded: approved.

Jeff Eisenbarth

The budget has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Board. A 6.4% tuition increase and increased spending from the endowment was approved. The approved budget is lean with a decrease in special projects and only a small contingency fund. Trustees also approved the bond issue for the new academic building.

Some changes are coming in the year ahead including progress towards a more transparent budget planning process and more faculty involvement.

Charlie Wallace read the Faculty Minute for retiring colleague Lane McGaughy; Chuck Williamson read the Minute for retiring colleague Arthur Payton. Carol Long acknowledged the retirement of Larry McBride, who has asked that no fuss be made over him.

Doreen Simonson: SSRD announcement for next week.

No May meeting is planned for Faculty.

Moved to adjourn at 12:15pm. So approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Abendroth-Smith
Faculty Secretary