



UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE RECORD

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting September 6, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 12:00PM by Professor Martin Ligare, Chair of the Faculty.

In a brief statement, Professor Ligare reminded the assembly of the motion passed at the last April meeting concerning the time change for Faculty meetings to 12-12:52 on the first and third Tuesdays of the month on a trial basis for the 2005-2006 academic year. Since both meetings will be treated as one single meeting, flexibility will be required in adjusting the agenda when needed.

Announcements and remarks by the President

First, President Mitchell welcomed returning and new faculty members. His introduction of new Provost Mary DeCredico was followed by a round of applause.

Then President Mitchell addressed Bucknell's response to hurricane Katrina, and the number of students from Tulane University now at Bucknell. The need for flexibility was emphasized as issues of paperwork and possibilities for providing a residential experience for these students are being solved. With the help of Provost Mary DeCredico, the University will continue to think about ways it can act systemically while making this a learning opportunity for our students. The example the Bucknell Brigade to Nicaragua was mentioned as a possible model. President Mitchell thanked the many individuals involved with the response to the disaster, including Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences Robert Midkif and VP for Enrollment and Communications Kurt Thiede.

Next, President Mitchell discussed the timing of the university-wide release of a draft of the Strategic Plan after the meeting of the Board of Trustees. Underlying the draft nature of the plan, President Mitchell also emphasized the distinction between strategies and tactics. Such specific tactics as the development of an art building for example would not be mentioned at the level of the strategic plan.

Announcements by the Chair of the Faculty

Professor Ligare reminded the assembly that at the April 2005 meeting, the Faculty voted to approve the handbook amendment proposals as part of the Immediate Recommendations on governance presented by Professor John Peeler for the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance (See April minutes). Professor Ligare reported that

no handbook amendments had been made yet but that the Faculty Council was moving the process along. Scheduled also is an examination of how the Faculty Council functions.

New Business

Professor Amy McCready rose to the floor, and on behalf of the Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee first reminded the assembly of the reasons motivating the changes that led to the motion introduced at the April 2005 meeting regarding honorary degrees (see April minutes). She specified the fact that President Mitchell is now a member of the Board of Trustees. The motion to accept the amendments to the Faculty Handbook (as described in the September meeting agenda) was made, seconded and passed.

Then Professor McCready presented a report from the Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee regarding merit distribution for all tenured faculty. She emphasized the high quality and the consistency of the rating scores over the year, which speaks to the overall excellence of the faculty.

Next on the agenda was the introduction of new faculty and staff by Dean of Arts and Sciences Genie Gerdes, Associate Deans of Faculty Chris Zappe and Beth Cunningham, and Dean of Engineering Jim Orbison (see attached).

Announcements and remarks by members of the President's staff

In his discussion of Public Safety, VP for Student Affairs Charles Pollock confirmed that Public Safety will remain unarmed, which was followed by a spontaneous round of applause. More Buffalo police may be seen on campus as a result, but this solution was seen as better choice. Meanwhile, a search chaired by General Counsel Wayne Bromfield will yield a new Director of Public Safety.

In terms of Diversity affairs, VP Pollock commented on the number of interim positions at the moment, and the need for individual and collective reviews in order to determine if this area is appropriately organized and resourced. Parts of the review will be connected to the Strategic Plan and will involve external agencies. This year, a bridge taskforce will be constituted in order to identify implementations that can be made now without requiring resources from the Strategic Plan.

In the absence of VP for Finance David Surgala, President Mitchell and Professor Ligare reported on the ramifications of the smaller-than-expected increase in health benefits. The issue will be considered by CBAG, and discussed with various committees.

Next, VP for Enrollment and Communications Kurt Thiede reported on Admissions numbers for the class of 2009, which represent the second largest pool (8304) after last year's (8324). The acceptance rate (33.9%) was the most competitive

process in the university's history. 67% of students ranked were in the top decile of their high school classes. Just under 16% of students self-identified as being a racial minority. About 3% of this class is international. VP Thiede also encouraged all to participate in recruiting the next class, and to take advantage of Open House and classroom visit opportunities. As for the financial aid budget, quality and diversity of class are increasing while maintaining budgetary targets.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Philippe C. Dubois
Secretary of the Faculty