



## UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE RECORD

### Minutes

The April meeting of the Bucknell University Faculty was called to order by Faculty Chair Marty Ligare at 12:04 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 in the Langone Center Forum.

#### **1. Amendments to and approval of March 2008 minutes**

#### **2. Announcements and remarks by the President**

President Mitchell opened his remarks with a public acknowledgement of Professor Ligare's leadership of the Faculty Council, and thanked him for his dedicated service. A standing ovation followed. The President praised Chair Ligare for the reinvigoration of the University Council, and the series of very good conversations, including a discussion of the proposed Internal Communications Plan, a series of changes to the Faculty Handbook and the draft Case Statement for the Comprehensive Campaign.

VP for Communications Pete Mackey proceeded to do a brief summary of the Internal Communications Strategy, and then President Mitchell continued with the University Council's discussion concerning changes to the Faculty Handbook. The President noted that the University Council unanimously supported the proposal about Faculty Council and Governance. On the issue of the current limitation in the Faculty Handbook that effectively bars hiring new faculty with tenure, President Mitchell pointed out that it would be helpful to the Comprehensive Campaign if a limited process would allow hiring faculty with more than three years of experience and in some cases with tenure. The President emphasized that this would not be the norm, but would be available under special, limited circumstances. The President praised Geoff Schneider and the Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee for agreeing to review this issue.

Also, President Mitchell mentioned that the conversation about the Case Statement for the Comprehensive Campaign was very productive as well, and will be continued at the next University Council meeting. The President remains optimistic that Campaign goals will be met in spite of the current economic climate.

According to the President, important issues to be discussed at the Board of Trustees semi-annual meeting on campus include:

- approving the Campus Master Plan
- finalizing the Case Statement for the Campaign
- approving the University Budget of next year
- making the final decisions related to arming campus public safety officers.

A summary of the board meeting will be circulated.

Newly tenured and promoted faculty will be honored on Friday evening of Trustee Weekend. President Mitchell encouraged all to attend.

President Mitchell also announced that the VP for Finance & Administration Dave Surgala will be joined on April 10<sup>th</sup> by consultants from Shepley Bulfinch and Towers/Golde in a campus forum on Campus Master Plan. All were encouraged to

attend. In addition, an all-campus forum will be scheduled where the President will be joined by the senior administrators of the University in fielding questions. Notice of this meeting will be sent out in the near future.

Next, the President reminded all in attendance of the final campus forum for the Provost candidates, and formally thanked Professor Maria Antonaccio and the members of the Committee for their efforts.

Finally, the President mentioned that Bucknell had approached the various Presidential candidates about coming to campus. Chelsea Clinton is scheduled to make an appearance on campus.

Then, Kurt Thiede was given the floor for an update on the Class of 2012. With a goal of 925 students, Bucknell received a total number of 8014 applications (down from 8900 last year). Decision letters were sent on March 28. Current acceptance rate remains similar to last year's with 29.5%; while the anticipated yield rate of 38-39% is up from last year's 33.5% (a sign that Bucknell is a stronger interest within our applicant group). Accepted student open house is scheduled for April 12.

Following a question from Professor Beth Capaldi asking for a report or update on the campus arming recommendation, Chief of Staff Dave Myers responded that information was still being gathered at this point.

### **3. Announcements and remarks by the Chair of the Faculty**

Chair Ligare first announced that nominations for Faculty Governance positions had not yet been completed and will be forthcoming from the Faculty Council and the Nominating Committee for the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure. After announcement of these nominations, five days will be allowed for additional nominations prior to the April election.

Then Professor Ligare thanked President Mitchell for approving a number of Faculty Handbook changes including making the Committee on Athletics as standing committee and increasing the quorum from 75 to 100. The Chair also seconded what the President said earlier concerning the productive work of the Faculty Council and University Council this year. Concerning the issue of Endowed Chairs, the Faculty Council recommended a change of policy before the hiring occurs and not the other way around. The issue is on the table at the moment, as well as the issue concerning the distribution of financial aid. Also under consideration are the curricular consequences of new academic centers, and aspects of academic vision.

Finally, Professor Ligare recalled the challenges, rewards and important lessons learned over the past four years. He thanked all in attendance for the friendships forged during his tenure as Chair of the Faculty. A warm round of applause followed.

### **4. Committee Reports:**

#### **a. Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee**

i. Professor Geoff Schneider, Chair of the Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee opened his report with the motion presented at the March meeting of the Faculty concerning the Revision of the Faculty Council Charge. The complete written report of the Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee appears in the Appendix to the agenda for this meeting.

Chair Ligare pointed out that after the motion was seconded at the March 2008

Meeting, it was noted that passages would necessitate additional changes to the language in other parts of the Handbook. The Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee has identified other Handbook language that should change, and those changes are included in the text of the Amendment that is a part of this Agenda. These additions to the amendment do not change the intent or substance of the original motion, and Professor Ligare proposed that the vote takes place on the motion as it appears in this Agenda, not as it appeared when originally introduced in March. There was no objection to this procedure.

Professor Schneider added that the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook were not major but simply designed to streamline practices already in place, and to create a formal charge for the Faculty Council that better reflects its current role. All voted in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

ii. The complete second written report from the Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee appears in the Appendix to the agenda for this meeting.

### **b. Committee on Planning and Budget**

Professor Tom DiStefano presented his report for the Committee on Planning and Budget. The complete written report of the Committee on Planning and Budget appears in the Appendix to the agenda for this meeting.

### **c. Committee on Instruction**

Professor Katharina Vollmayr-Lee, Chair of the Committee on Instruction briefly announced that the CoI was working on revising the Strategic Academic Vision document and that a forum was planned for April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **5. Announcement from Bucknell Student Government**

Members of BSG reported that Faculty office hours would be published on internal "people search" results. They also announced that the Collegiate Readership Program now provides opportunity for faculty involvement and free subscriptions to The New York Times.

Finally, Professor John Rickard took the floor and on this April Fools Day and moved that the faculty approve the following formal resolution:

*That we, the Bucknell faculty, do express our gratitude and appreciation for Professor Ligare's tireless and selfless work on our behalf over the past four years. That we publicly recognize that Marty has given so much of himself to this very demanding job, always conscious of the faculty's rights and interests, always available to colleagues when needed, and always—somehow—keeping his good humor and sense of proportion through it all. I move, therefore, that we officially welcome Professor Ligare back to his department and the way of life he left four years ago by thanking him most enthusiastically for his outstanding service to the faculty and the university.*

Once seconded, the motion carried unanimously and was followed by a sustained round of applause.

## **6. Adjournment**

The April 2008 Meeting of the Bucknell Faculty was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.; no second meeting time was necessary this month.

Respectfully submitted,

Philippe C. Dubois  
Secretary of the Faculty