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Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Arts and Sciences Faculty
April 21, 1994

Present: Attendance sheet lost during circulation

I. President of the Faculty Jim Small called the Special Faculty Meeting to order at 12:40.

II. On behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, Socky O'Sullivan presented the previously distributed proposal concerning Winter Term, 1995. The proposal offered five major requirements:

1. A focus on experiential learning;
2. Required hours, days: twelve student-faculty contact hours for each of three weeks, spread over at least four days, with two final days devoted to closure exercises; faculty would also indicate how much time students would be expected to devote each week to projects and co-curricular activities
3. Required co-curricular activities;
4. Restricted class size;
5. A new calendar: the term would begin January 9 and run for three weeks and two days.

III. Shelly Ozark, a student member of the Academic Affairs Committee, summarized student opinion reflected at a forum on Winter Term, held April 20, 1994. Shelly indicated that the approximately fifteen students attending expressed opposition to the shortening of Winter Term, but favored the experiential emphasis of the proposal and the increase in contact hours (as a way to fight boredom during Winter Term). Shelly emphasized that students consider Winter Term among the best of their Rollins experiences.

IV. The faculty then discussed the proposal. Among the questions raised concerning the focus on experiential learning were the following: Should one teaching strategy be imposed on all classes? Is there any non-experiential learning? If a very broad definition of "experiential learning" is used, will that criterion mean anything? If the term is used narrowly, who will enforce the criterion? As long as all faculty must teach during the Winter Term, can we require how they will teach? A straw vote rejected requiring Winter Term courses to have an experiential component (39 to 16).

Concerning proposed changes in the required hours and in the calendar, the following questions, among others, were raised: Don't prior contracts make it impossible to change the Winter Term calendar for next year? Are there pedagogical problems with trying to condense a term's learning into three weeks? How will sorority rush be scheduled in relation to Winter Term? A straw vote rejected the change in calendar for 1995 by a vote of 31 to 11.

IV. In response to Academic Affairs' request for a sense of where the faculty stands on Winter Term, 17 voted to replace the 4-1-4 calendar with a semester calendar; 19 voted against getting rid of Winter Term. Thirty-one voted for an optional Winter Term; 8 voted against that. Votes on other related questions were too scattered to be considered significant.

V. The meeting adjourned shortly before 2:00.

Barbara Harrell Carson
Vice president/Secretary