

5-5-2004

Minutes, Arts & Sciences Faculty Meeting, Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Arts & Sciences Faculty

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Arts & Sciences Faculty, "Minutes, Arts & Sciences Faculty Meeting, Wednesday, May 5, 2004" (2004). *College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Minutes*. Paper 87.
http://scholarship.rollins.edu/as_fac/87

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Minutes of the Meeting
Arts and Sciences Faculty
May 5, 2004

Members Present: M. Anderson, G. Barreneche, P. Bernal, E. Blossey, A. Blumenthal, A. Boguslawski, D. Boniface, R. Bornstein, S. Carrier, B. Carson, R. Carson, R. Casey, J. Chambliss, D. Charles, M. Cheng, G. Child, J. Child, D. Cohen, E. Cohen, G. Cook, D. Crozier, N. Decker, S. Easton, J. Eck, H. Edge, R. Foglesong, C. Fowler, E. Friedland, B. Galperin, J. Gorman, E. Gregory, D. Griffin, K. Griffin, M. Gunter, D. Hargrove, P. Harris, J. Henton, J. Hewit, A. Homrich, G. Howell, C. Hudspeth, R. James, P. Jarnigan, J. Jones, S. Klemann, H. Kypraios, S. Lackman, P. Lancaster, C. Lauer, L. Laws, B. Levis, R. Lima, E. McClellan, M. Mésavage, G. Meyers, T. Moore, R. Moore, L. Musgrave, S. Neilson, E. Nordstrom, K. Norsworthy, T. Ouellette, T. Papay, W. Phelan, J. Provost, J. Queen, R. Ray, P. Roach, D. Richard, A. Rosenthal, E. Royce, S. Rubarth, M. Ruiz, J. Schmalstig, J. Schultz, R. Simmons, G. Sinclair, J. Sinclair, J. Small, R. Smither, P. Stephenson, L. Tillman-Healy, G. Williams, Y. Yao, J. Yellen, W. Zhang.

I. Call to Order: Yehudit Greenberg called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the April 28, 2004, meeting were approved as presented.

III. Recognition of the President, Dr. Rita Bornstein:

A. By faculty emeriti: Prof. Ed Borsoi, representing emeriti faculty, thanked RB for the idea of and support for emeriti organization and presented her with gift.

B. By A&S Faculty: Profs. Erich Blossey (most senior member of the A&S Faculty, who joined the Chemistry Department in 1965) and Jennifer Queen (the newest A&S colleague, assistant professor of psychology) presented RB with a piece of hot-glass art by Berry and Scott Davis, is part a series entitled “Lagoon.”

“Rita, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences join together in expressing their deep gratitude for all you have done for Rollins—and in particular for your championing and challenging us as teachers and as scholars. Today we would like to present you with a symbol of our esteem—something that we hope will remind you of the faculty who will always remember you and your work on our behalf.”

Blossey went on to explain the appropriateness of the gift, “More important, the vibrant, vividly colored sea-forms here remind us of the beauty and vitality you’ve brought to Rollins. And the dynamic, ever-changing revelations of the ocean-life suggested in this work seem to be a perfect metaphor for your own capacity to open and close--and open again in continually breathtaking incarnations.”

Queen: “Denise Levertov captured something of this spirit of continual renewal in her poem “The Pulse,”” which she read.

Blossey: “In your case, Rita, there have been the pulsations of dancer, businesswoman, teacher, champion of equity, college fund-raiser, college president, public intellectual. Now, all of your colleagues and friends on the Arts and Sciences faculty look forward to seeing your next astonishing opening.

“We thank you for all you’ve done for us, for all you’ve been for us—and wish you great happiness ahead.”

Rita Bornstein received a full two-minute spontaneous standing ovation from the assembled.

Greenberg then presented RB with a copy of the Proclamation read during the Convocation.

Dr. Bornstein responded with some remarks. “I want to thank you all for the many gifts over the past month: the book of essays, *Teaching in Paradise*, poems, compositions of music, proclamations, private notes and letters mean very much to me.” She then expressed “*Real* real thanks to for what you have given me over the past 14 years.” Rita complimented faculty on their gift of hard work in governance, self and peer evaluation, and the gift of extraordinary teaching. She noted that she is at her most authentic self while with the faculty, and expressed her sincere love for the faculty: “I thank you from the bottom of my heart for these past 14 years, and you have my immense gratitude and confidence.”

III. Other presentations and announcements (Yudit Greenberg):

A. To Dr. Lorrie Kyle: Yudit thanked the President’s assistant: “With so many thanks from us, you have been the woman behind the woman. You have our admiration and our gratitude.” The faculty enthusiastically supported the proclamation with a rousing ovation.

B. Departure of Dr. Alica Rosenthal – “we’re really sad, and wish you all the best.”

C. Congratulations to Connie Hudspeth for becoming director of Community Engagement.

IV. Proposal: Endorsement of the May 2004 candidates for graduation, pending verification of all requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Enrollment Update from Dean Dave Erdman: The budget depends on 1710 students.

New student target is 530 (475 new, 55 transfers).

This year’s applicant pool 12% larger than last year. The College accepted 59% of applicants; last year 67%.

Yield on offers of admission: 490 deposits to date; target is 530.

SAT average for the accepted class was 1204; last year 1179. The group who has already paid deposits is 1180 SATs.

41% of the new class is male (typical of last 5 years).

Students of color comprise 20% of the entering class; 16% was trend for past three years.

VI. Student Life Committee (Pedro Bernal): Report on the SLC discussion of the Academic Honor System:

Bernal reprised history of committee's work. He reminded faculty of draft document faculty received a few weeks ago, and said that there would soon be a proposal in the fall and a timeline for implementation (perhaps in Spring 2005). Bernal wishes to talk to faculty more, about the "big questions": What is the Honor Code for? What do we hope to accomplish through implementation of this code? We need to hear how far we want to take this: how much are we willing to trust the students? We should be able to place a lot of trust in the students. And even if we concentrate solely on the academic component, will the atmosphere of the college change as a whole? We need for people to think of the residential and judicial component of the College.

There are two categories of honor codes: 1) single sanction: expulsion. 2) There are other codes where there are a variety of stipulations for various infractions. The SLC committee needs some sense of the Big Direction. Bernal commented he feels we are all "on the same page" for the goal of the Honor Code, affecting "the moral ecology." But he has requested more input into the committee and the task force.

Task Force: Bernal, Jeff Schultz, Jessica . Current committee members:

Dean Neilson commented that we have come far in 12 months, and is setting up a series of strategies for conversations with the students to occur in the early part of the Fall Term. Neilson is viewing the process as part of the cultural change.

Gary Williams commented that while the faculty was silent, he felt there were a lot of people who have mixed feelings. He hopes the faculty will participate in the discussions, even those with students.

Steve Klemann said he is trying to get a handle on what we are charged with doing. Are there broader campus life (outside the classroom) ecology issues we are considering?

Bernal felt that the charge was to develop an academic honors system. However, he believes that there are certain life situations that should be included.

J. Provost: There should be complementary codes: one for academic, and one for co-curricular activities. She hopes that that second code will have a lot of facets, for example, be based on civility.

Bernal: There are several schools that have an academic honors code and a student code of conduct. We may need to rewrite the code we have, in order to be more consistent with the honor system we devise. The judicial portion of the two parts of the codes have different systems.

Scott Rubarth: “Do the students feel this is being imposed from above, or something they are generating? Are they going to see this code as theirs or ours?”

Bernal: “Students will retain control over the honors council. We think that is a significant component.” Pedro felt he could not answer the second question.

Nielsen added that the SGA has sent four resolutions to the SCL, requesting an honor code or system. He challenged, “How do we teach a system to first year students, and how do we change upper-class students to conform to this new system? Washington and Lee has the best code in the country; they have a culture of integrity that is taught to them on entry to the college.”

Paul Harris: “We will improve the moral ecology by implementing this code. We must point out that the faculty lives by these guidelines already.”

Jill Gorman: “The Honors Council doesn’t have any voting faculty advisors on it. Is this a standard? It seems to me we will have a problem initiating this code, in terms of students who are currently here. Has there been a survey of the final question on the Faculty Evaluation – observed plagiarism in the class?”

Bernal: “Our work in the task force has indicated that Rollins is no better or worse than other place. We not only wish to deal with cheating in the classroom; we want to create something else. If we give them a lot of responsibility, they will behave as students in other places: they will sign the pledge and will adhere to it.”

Don Griffin: “It is essential that there be no option that they sign this document, and secondly that they enforce it every time. Any kind of program that has an honors code adjudicated by students needs this component.”

Hoyt Edge: “We are talking about the virtues and values of the academy. Just as we take it upon ourselves to write a paper, we must stand for the virtues and values of the academy. Then the question of inside and outside makes no difference: we are trying to bring them into ‘ourselves.’”

Barry Levis: “I have questions about this student panel. I am concerned that a faculty member who finds plagiarism might have this overturned by the student panel. Is there a mechanism for appeal?”

Bernal: there is a faculty appeal. It is heard by Academic Affairs committee appeal process, not a student body. We need to come up with some collective sense of where we want to be. Do we want to come up with a hybrid judicial council, students and faculty?” He felt the system, run by the students, will be compromised.

To close the discussion, Bernal proposed several conversations in the fall, with a document to consider coming later in the fall.

VII. Yudit thanked chairs and members of committees for all their hard work on the committees. She thanked outgoing chairs Judy Schmalstig and Larry Eng-Wilmot, announced continued service of Kleman and Bernal, and thanked Lackman for her service.

VII. Meeting was adjourned at 1:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Cohn Lackman, Secretary