

Remarks made during the BOV Meeting

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November 12, 2007

Thank you Mr. Rector. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

The Faculty Senate has met twice since the last BOV meeting. Agenda items for the Faculty Senate meetings were focused on a better understanding the budget issues, learning about the Office of the Graduate Ombudsperson, receiving an update on work of the Faculty Review Committee, and learning about the health of the University Libraries.

Whenever the Faculty Senate wants clarification on budget issues Dwight Shelton always makes time for us and visits the Senate. Dwight, as usual, did a tremendous job of updating the Faculty Senate on the challenges faced with respect to the budget. After Dwight's presentation Senators had a much clearer understanding of the disconnect between base budget adequacy, unexpected costs to Virginia Tech after April 16th, and the proposed budget reductions.

Ennis McCrery informed the Senate on the newly created Office of the Graduate Ombudsperson. Ennis' work should not only be beneficial to graduate students but also to faculty. It is a more comprehensive model than faculty currently have and the graduate model, with some modification, might be a useful one for faculty.

Leon Geyer, Chair of the Faculty Review Committee updated the Faculty Senate on last year's activities of the Committee. Just as a reminder, the Faculty Review Committee provides faculty review of faculty grievances and considers appeals in the promotion and tenure process when the provost does not concur with a positive recommendation from the University Committee on Promotion and Tenure. This past year, 2006-2007 two cases were heard. I think this reflects that many of these sensitive issues are getting resolved at appropriate levels of administration.

Faculty feel that a healthy university library is central to a top research university and as such, Faculty are concerned about the "state of health" of our University Libraries. We'd like to see more resources directed to keeping our library "healthy" in order to meet the needs of faculty and students.

In my last report I mentioned that this year's agenda will be directed at working with the Commission on Faculty Affairs regarding (1) results of the Survey of Pre-Tenure Faculty; (2) implementation of the recommendations from the Race Task Force; (3) removal of principal investigators; (4) criteria for mandatory employee

assistance programs for faculty; (5) expectations for promotion for research professors; (6) professors of practice, and (6) the changes in protocol and instrumentation for teaching evaluations. As you can see CFA is not shy about taking on difficult issues and as a result has an ambitious agenda and I would expect that many of these issues will work their way through university governance as resolutions and possibly to future Board of Visitor's meetings.

This past week over 450 faculty and graduate students participated in the Dean's Forum on Health, Food, and Nutrition. Dean Sue Ott Rowlands from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences and Dean Sharron Quisenberry of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences sponsored the full day forum. The Forum represented an important opportunity for Virginia Tech faculty and students to meet, network in highlighting their research and programs find common areas of interest. The Forum was a huge success. Observing faculty interact at this forum reinforced the importance of a consistent ongoing opportunity for faculty to connect. A faculty club would certainly serve as a catalyst for this type of networking.

Our weekly faculty receptions have been well received and well attended. Once again I would like to thank President Steger for providing the resources to hold the receptions.

Finally, as always, on behalf of the faculty I would like to thank you for this opportunity to both update the work of the Faculty Senate as well as communicate issues of concern to faculty.