NCR Faculty Association Meeting  
February 11, 2008

Minutes


Nick Stone opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The Treasurer’s Report was read and approved.

Nick Stone recommended that the Graduate Honors System report and the Graduate Programs Visioning discussion be postponed until the March 10th meeting due to time constraints. The recommendation was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Last Lecture Series
A subcommittee consisting of Karen Akers, Barbara Bennett, and Nick Stone was formed to work out the details of the last lecture series. The subcommittee will provide a report at the March 10th NCRFA meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NCR Bi-weekly Social
Nick reminded everyone that the first NCR biweekly social outing would take place on February 15th at Bailey’s Pub & Grille, Arlington, 5:00pm

April 16th Remembrance
Barbara Bennett noted that the April 16th Remembrance Activities are fast approaching and encouraged everyone to think about possible activities for the NCR.

Summer Semester/Three Semester Plan
Nick stated that Dean DePauw would like to move forward on the summer semester plan. Questions were raised by Karen Akers and Gabriella Belli as to the specifics of the Dean’s charge. After some discussion, asub-committee consisting of Kitty Hancock, Janet Abbate, Csaba Egyhazy, and possibly Bill Frakes was organized to spear head the 3 semester plan. The committee will examine the specifics of Dean DePauw’s charge, address questions raised during the FA meeting, and create a general report that highlights the pros and cons of a 3 semester plan.
David Trauger provided a list of universities currently employing a three semester system. It was the consensus of those present that a three semester plan provided 9 month faculty the option of choosing their two teaching terms.

Numerous questions were raised:
   A. How will GA’s be affected?
   B. Will a single model be used, or will each Department create its own model?
   C. Is there a way to create a model that will eliminate the “grading hassle” that currently exists for those who are already informally operating under a 3 semester academic year?
   D. What are the issues with regard to faculty assignment and faculty load?
   E. How will a 3 semester plan affect tuition costs, and what are the I-9 ramifications?
   F. How will this affect registration and the timetable?
   G. How will summer support be handled?
   H. Will NCR departments already using a 3 semester plan provide an outline of their plan?

Pros of the 3 semester plan were listed as:
   A. Can cross-list
   B. Increase enrollments
   C. Spread enrollments more evenly

The sub-committee will provide a report at the March 10th meeting.

Space in the NCR
Tom Grizzard provided an overview of the history of “Space Studies” in the NCR beginning with the 1999 space study. Karen Akers noted that efforts are under way to make the old space study document available digitally. Grizzard noted that the ARI has under used space while the NVC has a shortage of space. Nick stated that the “space” issue is not just a regional concern, but is a university concern and should involve Blacksburg administrators as well as faculty and administrators in the NCR.

Grizzard recommended sending a white paper to Blacksburg administrators outlining the problem, and requesting a solution. A committee consisting of: Tom Grizzard, (chair), Gabriella Belli, Nick Stone, Marcy Boucouvalas, Barbara Hoopes, Angela Huebner, Charles Jacobina, (Jim Wolfe and Joseph Wang were suggested as possible members) was organized. The committee will create the white paper and report back to the Faculty Association at the March 10th meeting.

VOLUNTEER EFFORT/COMMUNITY BUILDING
Suggestions:
A. Locate local volunteer opportunities in the Falls Church area.
B. Check on volunteer opportunities with Home Stretch, a local organization that provides transitional housing, and other services to homeless families in Falls Church, and the Northern Virginia area.

RESEARCH CONSORTIUM
Gabriella provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Research Methods Consortium. Gabriella and Bill Frakes serve as coordinators of the Consortium. Currently 9 faculty members are affiliated. Gabriella and Bill would like to increase faculty involvement. To learn more about the RMC go to: http://rmc.ncr.vt.edu/

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm

Minutes submitted by Beverly Bunch-Lyons, Faculty Association Secretary