National Capital Region Faculty Association
20 Oct 2008 Open Meeting

In attendance: Angela Huebner (President), Adil Godrej (President Elect), Raymond Major (Treasurer), Melony A. Price-Rhodes (Secretary), Nick Stone (Past President), Tom Grizzard, Marc i Boucouvalas, Shinya Kikuchi

I. Call to Order
President Huebner called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes
The reading of the minutes from the September 22, 2008 was waived after a motion made to accept them as written. A second to the motion was made and was approved by a voice vote of those present.

III. Treasurer’s Report
Dues has been collected from eight faculty since the September meeting. The current balance is 420.45; there have been no expenses since September 2008.

IV. Old Business
A. Status of pending documents:
1. Statement of the NCR Faculty Association on Critical Space Needs
   The latest version of the letter has been inserted onto VT Faculty Association letterhead. The letter will be signed by Faculty Association President Huebner, scanned and placed on the NCR Faculty Association website. The letter will be sent to Provost McNamee, and copied to Dean Karen DePauw and NCR Executive Director Jim Bohland.

2. Graduate Education in the NCR
   Edits were made to the report after suggestions were made by Marcie Boucouvalas. The document now contains an appendix that had not been widely distributed. Dean Karen DePauw has seen the report and liked it. The report will be sent to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Dave Trauger and Karen DePauw. It will also be posted on the NCR Faculty Association website.

   A discussion took place regarding whether or not this document will be stagnant or will be active and solicitations made for comments from faculty members. Raymond stated he would have his Graduate Research Assistant look into the best method could be submitted. It was agreed that email submissions would be preferred over creating a blog on the NCR Faculty Association website.

B. Community Service
   a. revisiting
      President Huebner discussed whether or not the faculty wanted to pursue community outreach projects. Last year, the faculty worked with a local homeless shelter and food bank as a method to engage the faculty.
A discussion took place regarding possible activities and it was decided that this topic would be readdressed during the meeting when Provost McNamee visits in November.

IV. New Business

A. Associate Dean of Graduate School
Last week, Dave Trauger sent out an email stating that he has been asked to come back to help Dean DePauw and the Graduate School with several “Special Projects”. These projects include continuing the Graduate Honor System and the three semester system that began last year.

There was discussion on the role of the NCR Faculty Association in the two projects. The Faculty Association agreed to keep a neutral position on the projects while being the voice for the NCR faculty. President Huebner will ask Dave if he would like for the Faculty Association to appoint an ad hoc committee for each of the projects. Last year, two ad hoc committees were formed to research these projects and prepare their reports.

B. Visit by Provost McNamee
The Provost will be coming on November 11, 2008 from 12:00-1:30. After a motion, followed by a second of the motion, and voice vote, the meeting with the Provost will be a brown bag with the NCR Faculty Association providing drinks and dessert.

President Huebner asked for topics for the provost to discuss. The following suggestions were made:
1- Reply to President Steger’s email from October 10th in which he discussed the state’s budget reductions, to include the elimination of university programs
2- Discuss the NCR Critical Space Needs letter

C. Higher Education Restructuring Act  http://www.vt.edu/restructuring/
There was a discussion about one of the elements of the Higher Education Restructuring Act, specifically the opportunity for classified staff meeting specific criteria to convert to faculty positions (A/P faculty and special research faculty). Melony inquired if any of the attendees were aware of the upcoming meetings being held on October 30 in the NCR. Many in attendance were not aware of the opportunity for selected staff to convert to special research faculty status, and there was concern expressed that since those conversions would affect sponsored research programs, the faculty should have been consulted and involved in planning. Melony agreed to send via email to the meeting attendees the relevant information that she had from the university Human Resource’s staff.

There appeared to be interest in learning more about the implications of these conversions.

D. Involvement of NCR Faculty
A discussion occurred regarding a method the NCR Faculty Association could increase attendance at meetings. It was suggested that a survey (an on-line survey such as Survey Monkey), be crafted inquiring what could be done to increase interest and attendance at the meetings. It was also noted that the university has a survey tool that could be used for this purpose (survey.vt.edu).
Nick Stone suggested that the association build on last year’s theme of building community and perhaps build on the community outreach activities that took place last week.

V. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 3:11

The next meetings:
29 Oct 2-3:30 (Wednesday) Faculty Association meeting with Dean DePauw in Alexandria, in the conference room on the first floor at 1021 Prince St.
30 Oct 2-3:30 (Thursday) Faculty Association meeting with Dean DePauw at the NVC, room 201