2014
Haverford College Faculty Meeting

*AGENDA*

Thursday, December 18, 2014
4:15 pm
Common Room, Founders Hall

Israel Burshatin presiding

1. Minutes from the Faculty Meeting November 20, 2014

2. Items for Action, and Items for Discussion
   a. EPC, Phil Meneely: New date to drop classes (discussion)
   b. EPC, Phil Meneely: General Education requirement (discussion)
   c. FAPC, Casey Londergan & Laura McGrane: Faculty Housing (discussion)
   d. FRRC, Anne McGuire: Faculty Handbook revisions (discussion & approval)

3. Report of the President

4. Report of the Provost (see attachment)

5. Open question period

Attachments in connection with agenda items:
   a. EPC, Phil Meneely: New date to drop classes
   b. EPC, Phil Meneely: General Education requirement
   c. FAPC, Casey Londergan & Laura McGrane: Faculty Housing
   d. FRRC, Anne McGuire: Faculty Handbook revisions
   e. Provost, Kimberly Benston: Provost’s Report

Additional attachments sent out for review (and for questions during open question period):
   a. FAPC, Casey Londergan & Laura McGrane: Communications, Catalog & Grants Administration
   b. LACOL Group, Richard Freedman & Fran Blase: LACOL Report
   c. Provost, Kimberly Benston: Faculty New Directions Fund Description, Chesick Summer Course Guidelines 2015 & Access to Learning Workshops
Haverford College Faculty Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2014

Israel Burshatin, Clerk

Moment of silence.

Action I. Approval of the minutes of October 30, 2014.

I. Reports, Items for Action, and items for discussion.

1. FAPC: Jill Stauffer, Feedback about Bionic (att. doc.)
   a. You have received our report: Has this captured your concerns and complaints? Are the priorities which we set right?
   b. We have met with the Registrar on this, and we will meet together again. We note that some things have already been fixed. Jim is working on interim solutions to make the system more “intuitive” and streamlined (fewer clicks, less back-and-forth, functional “back” buttons and better labeling of those that exist.) A note of caution: some things simply cannot be implemented, given how Bionic works.
   c. We will be creating a comprehensive “Guide to Bionic.”
   d. We will be investigating solutions to the complaints about the difficulty of advising with the current system.
   e. There are two LARGER conversations to be had:
      1. The Lottery: shall we re-consider a pre-registration for LE courses, with the results posted before pre-registration for all courses? Shall we consider more faculty autonomy, and pre-emptive action, on the issue of which student gets in from the waiting lists, on dropping non-shows from the waiting list, and whether the LE can actually be exceeded?
      2. The Disappeared College Catalog: we do not have a reliable list of courses being taught at any given time.

   QUESTION: Who (Professor?) sets priorities for choosing students from the waiting-list? And DOES Bionic give correct numbers? (Apparently sometimes not.)

   QUESTION: How to handle Bryn Mawr students who are majoring in Haverford departments? To what extent are we “advisers” to them as majors? We do not approve their registrations. I understand that at Bryn Mawr it is the Dean who approves a
student’s program; but the Dean also consults with the Major Adviser. How do we act as a “Major Adviser” for these Bryn Mawr students?

**COMMENT:** There is also the issue of Haverford Double-majors. The system has one major as primary major, and that is the adviser who approves the schedule. This is arbitrary (which is the “primary?” And is there in fact any “primary” for a Double-major.) **RELATED COMMENT:** Well, at least we see that there is a Double-major, under the old system we couldn’t!

**COMMENT:** And it is not clear how “Study Abroad” courses are approved, or not approved? At the moment, we do not get any data for a SA student who is pre-registering: there is a blank screen.

**COMMENT (EPC):** About The Lottery: EPC once proposed a pre-registration lottery system, which he faculty rejected. We will bring it up again. **RESPONSE (FORMER EPC):** I think that many in the faculty had rejected the proposal because they were questioning the entire lottery system, or at any rate were requesting a reconsideration of the whole system.

**REGISTRAR: (in reply to a query):** The spring 2015 lottery will be run right after Thanksgiving, when registration is complete. (It is still not complete.)

**COMMENT:** About advising in general: Apparently, as of now, if we do not approve a student’s schedule, nothing happens. The student is not advised of our non-approval (unless we notify the students ourselves), and the student’s registration is not affected by our non-approval. **ANOTHER COMMENT:** The student is even at an advantage, because the student’s registration remains open and can be changed. **ANOTHER COMMENT:** This produces a culture of skepticism about advising; the students begin to feel that they do not need to meet with advisers for advice, much less approval. There is no method of certification that the student has in fact met with an adviser. This is mis-shaping the adviser climate of the college.

**REGISTRAR:** We do indeed need to enhance, improve, the advising system, and the way in which it is embedded in Bionic.

**COMMENT:** About the Disappeared Catalog and the Course Guide: We lack (faculty and students) good reliable information about what courses are actually being offered.

We used to have 1) a yearly College Catalog which listed all the courses we teach over the long run; this has been superseded by the yearly Academic Prospectus issued for the purposes of the Admissions Office, which only lists upcoming fall semester courses (and n.b.: has partial, and often incorrect, information at that. It is riddled with errors. Where does this Prospectus come from, what part of the College issues it, and who puts together the information about our academic program? Surely this is the faculty’s business.)
We also used to have a yearly printed Course Guide, which listed all the courses for the current academic year, (supplemented by last-minute changes and additions in printed form), which is now superseded by the on-line version of the Course Guide (the advantage of which is that it can be corrected immediately on-line and hence is more up-to-date.) However, the information in the on-line Course Guide is apparently not identical to what can be obtained on Google or Moodle or wherever; so advising is plagued by confusing information about what is out there.

COMMENT (FAPC): So maybe we should re-establish the Catalog and/or at least the one printed Course Guide?

COMMENT: The loss of the Catalog is also the loss of reliable information about College Requirements and Regulations. ANOTHER COMMENT: It was suggested that in fact all requirements are on-line now, but it is hard to find. (INTERJECTION: It is on the Provost’s website: Teaching Resources and Support.) And there is information everywhere, and partial and inconsistent.

COMMENT: (The President): THERE OBVIOUSLY IS A COMMUNICATION GAP BETWEEN THE FACULTY AND THE PROSPECTUS, AND BETWEEN BIONIC AND THE FACULTY; WE WILL WORK ON THIS.

COMMENT: (The Dean of Admissions): The Academic Prospectus is intended only for Admissions purposes; we assume that prospective students do not need to know about graduation-requirements, but rather about what they can expect to find at the college when they come. 

REPLY: But at least that should be accurately describing the academic program we offer. COMMENT (FAPC): We are now talking with Chris Mills (College Communications) about this.

II. Report of the President.

I am pleased to announce a new large Campaign gift of $10,000,000 from The Jaharis Family Foundation; $8,000,000 will be in the form of a challenge-match
for developing Music facilities; $2,000,000 will be for debt-relief for three years post-graduation for students taking out loans.

The search for a CIO (Information Technology) is proceeding apace.

About Commencement: We are considering moving it from Sunday to Saturday; Bryn Mawr now graduates on Saturday morning, perhaps we could graduate on Saturday afternoon. QUESTION: Have you considered which assigned day, after the end of classes the previous Friday, will now be lost? Would it be a day of exam period? Would we shorten the period of final-grade submission by one day?

The December Board meeting will take place as a conference call.

III. Report of the Provost (att. doc.)

(The Provost was not at the meeting.) The Provost’s report is contained in the attached documents, including the report on the Chesick Summer Institute. The Provost reminds you of the first Provost’s Tea on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 4:15-6, to socialize and to discuss Diversity in the curriculum.

IV: Open Question Period

Josh Schrier (CIO Search Committee): The search has now reached the final stage of interviewing final candidates. Given the confidentiality issues of this search, it will not be a campus-open process; rather, there will be faculty panels to meet with candidates. It is not too late to get onto one of these panels; please let us know.

Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Linda Gerstein, Secretary to the Faculty