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SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Meeting of May 6, 2002

Ochre Court

Johnelle Luciani, RSM, Speaker of the Assembly, presided.

1. **Call to Order and Minutes.** The Minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2002 were approved.
2. **Announcements.** The President requests that faculty attend the luncheon she is giving on May 18. The Salve Regina Community Picnic will be on June 26 at 1:00 PM. The deadline for Small Grants and Travel Grants is today. The deadline for Faculty Development Grants is May 10.
3. **Social Committee.** Elaine Daniels described plans for the End of the Year Dinner. The meal at the Officers' Club will cost \$38.44 per person. (This has necessitated an extra fee for those who have paid the Assembly's dues of \$35.) For comparison, it should be noted that the Marriott Hotel charges \$80. No security problem is foreseen for entering the Navy Base but it would be advisable to bring a picture ID.
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Sixty-five individuals have paid dues so far this academic year. \$1,884 is left in the account. The extra fee for the End of the Year Dinner was approved by the Faculty Assembly at the October 1, 2001 meeting.
5. **Pell Scholars Honors Program.** Daniel Cowdin reported on the Pell Scholars Honors Program. A council of faculty and the Undergraduate Dean guides the program. Each semester, students in the program take two of their General Education requirements in special honors sections. The courses were in Literature, History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies. Reports from student evaluations have been largely positive; students indicate that they find the courses challenging. The program started with forty-four scholars drawn from scholarship students. About six or seven have left the program; only one has left the University.

More than fifty students who have just been admitted to the University have also applied for admission to the program.

Students may apply for "late" admission to the program (i.e., after they have already enrolled at the University and started to take classes). They must have at least a 3.3 average. So far, ten students have applied for this type of "late" admission.

The overall theme of the program will be constructive citizenship at the local, national, and international level. The plan for the junior year has not yet been determined; an internship and study abroad have been discussed. The possibility of a thesis in the senior year has been considered

Faculty are welcome to submit ideas for courses in the program. Next fall, proposals from the faculty will be considered for the sophomore year Pell courses given in 2003-4. Two members of the faculty in the program are linking efforts to teach courses on the literature and history of New England.

In answer to questions, D. Cowdin noted the following: This is not a program just for students interested in political science, despite its emphasis. Current students come from Nursing, Science, and other fields besides political science . . . The Pell Scholars Honors

Program will have to adjust to the new Core Curriculum when that curriculum is finished. It is too soon to say how the Pell Program will coordinate with the new Core . . . The student's transcript will indicate honors courses in the program . . . These honors courses are "at the student's level" and appropriate. Students in the program may be not be sufficiently challenged in some other sections of General Education courses . . .

Some comments were made about bringing the program to the Undergraduate Council and the Assembly for endorsement when it is sufficiently developed; the process followed by Business Studies for its new programs was suggested as a model for the Pell Scholars Honors Program to follow.

6. **Core Curriculum.** John Greeley, Co-Chair of the Deliberative Committee on the Core Curriculum, reported on the progress of the new Core Curriculum and answered questions. Development Teams from the various course areas have submitted reports. These reports represent an immense amount of work but are not "ready for a vote" because they are at various stages of completion.

He distributed copies of a handout entitled "Detailed Description of Experience or Course." The handout (an excerpt from a document approved by the Faculty Assembly in February) lists twelve items that are to be described for every course included in the Core. The individual teacher who completes this "Detailed Description" will become aware of the way the course fits into the goals and objectives of the Core.

In the "Detailed Description" there will be a "tension" between the way the particular course fulfills goals and objectives established for the Core (#5 on "Detailed Description") and the objectives of the experience or course (#4).

In a discussion of prerequisites, these points were raised: (a) The number of a course in the Core would indicate the year when it was normally taken or the level for placement purposes. (b) One Core course could list another Core course as a prerequisite. Other than these two exceptions (a and b), the Deliberative Committee did not foresee any other type of prerequisite for a Core Course

There may be all kinds of exceptions that have to be considered but it is best to wait until the "typical" Core is agreed on before the exceptions are decided. Exceptions, however, can be addressed in individual course areas if they can be easily incorporated at this stage.

Ideally, the student should take Core courses over four years, not just the first two.

Plans for the workshop on May 21 and 22 are still being formulated. This workshop should be the time when the Development Teams share their work with the rest of the faculty, comments can be heard by all the faculty, and new ideas generated. The faculty should also hear about developments "across the curriculum" (for example, improving student writing as a cooperative effort of the faculty in both the Portal and Core English courses). All of this work will probably not be in any shape for a vote of the Assembly until perhaps September.

7. **Postponement.** The Speaker announced that, because many faculty could not attend this meeting, the election of the Speaker will be postponed until May 21/22.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 PM.