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SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 2004

Bazarski Auditorium

Johnelle Luciani RSM, Speaker of the Assembly, presided.

- 1. **Call to Order and Minutes.** The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM. The Minutes of the meeting of November 12 were approved by General Consent.
- 2. **Announcements.** The Winter Social will on Friday, January 21 and held in the State Dining Room, Ochre Court, 7 to 9 PM.
- 3. **Treasurer.** Sixty-one members of the Assembly have paid dues. When recently received checks are cashed there will be \$2,078.45 in the Assembly's account.
- 4. **Update Core Capstone Course.** Stephen Trainor, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, presented an overview of the progress on the development of the Core Capstone course. He began by noting that the Core Curriculum originally had a two-semester freshman Portal Course, with Philosophy and Religious Studies as its lead departments. At the recommendation of the Core Deliberative Committee, the second semester was moved up to the Capstone position. This change was accepted by the President as one of the five Common Core Courses. Faculty are invited to share thoughts with the members of the Core Capstone Development Committee: December 7, 4:00 PM, 105 McAuley.
- 5. **Business Studies Proposed Curriculum Changes.** Ron Atkins, Chair of the Business Studies Department, presented two proposed changes for the department's curriculum:

First Proposal: To change the current major in Information Systems Science (BS) and its courses to a major in Information Systems Management (BS) with a new set of required courses. Significant changes, in addition to the new title, would include the following: elimination of ISS 101 and ISS 102, addition of one-credit courses, a Microsoft certification requirement (when the program is fully implemented), and a change in content of course offerings to reflect ongoing realities in design, procurement and utilization of Information Systems.

Second Proposal: A reintroduction and revision of a Degree Completion Program for the Department of Business Studies. According to the information listed in a handout under "Current initiatives," "Efforts are currently underway to locate an on-island site that provides adequate classroom support" for offering this Program. After having been suspended, the Program will be "reintroduced and marketed to students completing business related Associate Degrees or wishing to complete requirements for an undergraduate degree in Management." The integration of the new Core requirements for the Degree Completion Program is still being discussed.

6. **Postponed Motion – Syllabus.** The Assembly resumed debate on an untitled Motion submitted at its November 12 meeting by Arthur Frankel. (The first words of the Motion were: "Members of the faculty should give students in their courses a syllabus that contains the following information . . .") These questions were asked during the debate: Is the Motion

a critique of current policy that is now in place? How does the proposed new syllabus policy relate to University policy? How does the proposal relate to the principles of Academic Freedom? Do the faculty need to develop more clarity about what they mean by their understanding of Academic Freedom?

In response to questions, Prof. Frankel explained that his Motion lists recommendations rather than requirements. He acknowledged that the Motion did not address specific policy issues; its purpose was to give faculty responsibility for determining the contents of a course syllabus rather than administration or administrative committees. It was presumed that faculty would give a fair hearing to all recommendations concerning the content of a course syllabus but that in the final analysis, the teaching faculty should be the ones determining what should and shouldn't be in their course syllabus.

A comment was made that the University administration has no history of interfering with the Academic Freedom of the faculty or dictating what goes into a syllabus, except for the statement on disability accommodations.

A Motion to continue the debate in Executive Session was made and seconded. The Motion was passed: 40 YES 14 NO 12 ABSTAIN

The Speaker called for a brief recess before the meeting resumed.

The Assembly, by General Consent, authorized the vote on the Motion to be included in the Minutes: 33 YES 16 NO 6 ABSTAIN

The Motion passed without amendments.

A Motion to adjourn ended the meeting at 3:30 PM.