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SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Meeting of April 7, 2006

Jay Lacouture, Speaker of the Assembly, presided.

1. **Call to Order and Minutes.** The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM. The Minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved in a voice vote.

2. **Treasurer.** There is $2700 in the account. Seventy-five faculty members have paid dues.

3. **Social Committee.** Barbara Shamblin reported on a survey about a party at the end of the year. Thirty-seven faculty said they would attend. Another survey will be conducted.

4. **Proposed BA Degree in International Studies – Motion.** Camille Allen and George Antone presented a motion that the Faculty Assembly endorse the BA degree program in International Studies degree program (as described in handouts given to the Assembly). The motion was seconded.

   During the debate, the following were among the questions asked: Would the new degree require the hiring of new faculty? How could faculty workload be decreased if there is an increase in new programs? Is there a danger that students will fulfill the requirements of this major by taking mostly 100-level courses? Why is the major in an administrative office instead of a department?

   One comment was a recommendation that sample student curricula/plans should be drawn up and shown to prospective students and the Assembly.

   The following were some of the responses to questions: Nearly all of the courses in the proposed major are existing courses . . . The proposed major might make it more difficult to decrease faculty workload; a restructuring of other programs might alleviate this difficulty . . . International Studies is not a discipline that would have to be taught in a department . . . The planning for this major included research into the successful programs at other colleges and universities; these institutions often have a "center' that administers the program . . . Students majoring in Elementary Education would have enough room in their schedules to double-major in International Studies; this second major could count as a "social studies" background . . . Each student in the major would have an individualized curriculum but it would be structured, with courses increasing in difficulty in some areas; the major would be "advising intensive."

   The motion passed in a paper ballot: **YES 45 NO 9 ABS 3**

5. **Business Studies and Economics – Announcement.** Ron Atkins, Chair of the Department of Business Studies and Economics, announced that the department will be submitting two proposals to the Assembly for endorsement: a new major in Global Business and Economics (BA) and a revised major in Information Systems – Management (BS). He described the background and structures of the proposed changes.

6. **Dean of Faculty Position – Discussion.** The Speaker reminded the Assembly that several members had identified the need for a separate Dean of Faculty as an issue that the Assembly should address. The following were some of the points raised during discussion:

   The Vice President for Academic Affairs is in a difficult position if s/he is simultaneously Dean of Faculty and therefore answerable to both the administration and the faculty. A Dean of Faculty who works closely with the faculty would be an asset to the University. We had a separate Dean of Faculty and this worked well in the past . . . The Assembly has to put together a committee that would look into this matter; the Assembly could then use this committee's work for recommendations and guidelines that it would present to the administration . . . A Dean of Faculty would have a vested interested in working with and for the administration. The Assembly should have a voice in speaking for the faculty, not an administrator . . . The Search Committee that recently looked for a Vice President for Academic Affairs only searched for a VPAA, not for a combination VPAA – Dean of Faculty . . . A sensible approach could be to appoint a committee that will research what is done elsewhere and how effective a Dean of Faculty is at other institutions.

   The Speaker said he will accept volunteers for a committee to look into this matter. He asked interested faculty to email him. He will consult with the newly appointed VPAA at a later date.

7. **Executive Session – Motion.** The Speaker accepted a motion to continue the meeting in Executive Session. The motion was seconded and passed in a show of hands:

   YES 32 NO 17 ABSTAIN 1

The meeting resumed in Executive Session after a brief pause.