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Minutes of the Faculty Assembly
March 4, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 2:38.

The minutes for the December and February Faculty Assembly meetings were approved.

I. Sister M. Therese Antone spoke to the faculty about projected enrollment changes. When she addressed the assembly a month ago, the projected budget was based on 1,875 full-time students. Currently the budgeted average full-time undergraduate enrollment for the 2009-2010 year is 1,860 students. The economic downturn is projected to continue for 3-4 more years; longer than originally anticipated. Budget models with different enrollment assumptions continue to be developed.

   President Antone reminded the faculty that the university funding comes primarily from 3 sources: tuition, annual gifts, and endowment. We are now experiencing a "perfect storm" as we look at these revenue sources. All three are impacted by the economic crisis. A reduction in income demands a reduction in expenses.

   Difficult decisions that will not be popular need to be made. President Antone asked faculty members to think beyond their individual departments, and to think in terms of what is best for the institution and the students. We have positioned ourselves well in the market place. We have quality academic programs, an extraordinary plant, and are well managed and stable. We must work together to keep Salve Regina University academically strong and financially stable during these difficult times.

   Salve Regina University's tuition increase for next year will be only 2.7%.

II. Dr. Dean De La Motte spoke to specific changes in the functioning of the university; changes are still in progress and options are still being weighed.

   1. The Academic Affairs budget has been cut 10%.
   2. Faculty searches will continue, but contracts will be offered as non-tenure track, with the idea that they will revert to tenure-track position once the economy has stabilized.
   3. He will cut as many adjuncts as possible.
   4. GST will now consist of a 1-credit course over the first semester only. The Portal courses in English and Philosophy will increase to 18-20 students each.
   5. Upper-level courses with less than 10 students will be *subject* to cancellation; all 100 and 200 level courses should have a minimum of 15-20 students.
   6. Reviewing compensation practices for service-learning and team-taught graduate level courses.
   7. Postponement of hiring an Assessment Coordinator

   The following are options that Dr. De La Motte must consider, although they are not definites:

1. Changes to the 3 / 4, 4/ 3 load.
2. Cuts in Faculty Development funds.
3. Allowing more faculty to participate in Portal and Capstone courses.
4. Carefully considering release time.

Dr. De La Motte reminded us that the 5 competitive grants involving the Center for Teaching and Learning are still available, as that money has already been granted and designated for that purpose. Summer stipends of $5,000 are available for this summer; his office is working on the criteria and obligations. We will receive more information after spring break.

III. Breakout sessions on Academic Rigor and Integrity. Reports attached.

IV. Announcements.

a. Administrators' Evaluation Committee. We will soon receive a letter and survey about the Graduate Dean. Faculty are asked to respond as appropriate.
b. FACSB has met, and will continue working in the fall; please contact either Jim Chace or John Quinn if you can help out with this committee.
c. Earth Hour will be celebrated on Saturday, March 28th. Faculty are encouraged to participate by turning out all unnecessary electrical appliances at home. There will be a celebration on campus at Ochre Court that evening. Anyone interested in further participating in campus Earth Day activities should contact Jim Chace.
d. Dr. De La Motte spoke about the (new) New Student Seminar. He is recruiting for the new and improved seminar. There will be no summer reading, the class will meet on Fridays at 1pm (fall semester only), service projects will be carried out as a class with instructor participation encouraged. Reading will involve Blessed Unrest throughout the semester. There will be no core reflections, but the wellness themes continue to be an integral part of the course. If you're interested in participating, please contact Ducha Hang. Dr. De La Motte showed a video presentation on Blessed Unrest.

The meeting adjourned about 4:45.