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Minutes, Faculty Assembly Meeting
March 3, 2010
State Dining Room, Ochre Court

The meeting was **called to order** at 2:35 pm by the Speaker, Dr. William Stout.

The **minutes** of the last meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer Tim Neary announced that faculty dues are still being accepted (\$20, made out to SRU Faculty Assembly).

FACSB Report: Dr. Jameson Chase and Dr. John Quinn

John Quinn reported on his and Jim Chase's meeting with Sr. Jane on February 19, 2010. Sr. Jane indicated that she planned to raise faculty salaries by 3% for the coming year, possibly more for full professors, and contribute to faculty retirement plans at a rate of 4% to begin restoring the university's contribution which was eliminated for this year. She hopes to be able to return to the past levels (8.5%-10%) at some point. No individual faculty development funds (or a relatively small sum) would be available next year, except for the travel funds to speak at national conferences. In comparing faculty salaries to similar schools, no new list will be used this year (for next year's salaries). A suggestion was made that it would be more advantageous to faculty to have a 7% contribution to the pension fund, with no increase in salary, rather than the 4%-3% plan above.

Jim Chase gave a presentation which outlined the current list of comparison schools vs. the list of all 67 Tier IIA and Tier IIB schools (in the Northeast), the group into which we are placed by professional organizations and which is used in the US News and World Report rankings. A motion was made that faculty recommend that this list be used when determining salaries and benefits. Several faculty spoke in favor of the motion. Wording in the original motion was amended, so that the final motion read: "Salve Regina University, as a Tier II institution of higher education in New England, be compared to all other Tier II New England colleges and universities for determining faculty salary and benefits, and for other purposes deemed appropriate by the faculty." The motion carried, with 5 opposed and 4 abstaining.

Reactivation of AAUP chapter: Dr. Tom Svogun

Tom Svogun presented some facts about AAUP. Long ago Salve had a chapter. Individuals may become members without belonging to a chapter, and some Salve faculty are members. Tom requested that those who are currently members contact him; 7 active (i.e., dues-paying) members are needed to activate a chapter. Whether this is desired is yet to be seen.

E-Portfolio Task Force: Dr. Laura O'Toole

Laura O'Toole identified the E-Portfolio Task Force as a subset of the Advisory Committee on Academic Technology; members include Ty Brennan, Annette Torrey, Jane Bethune, Sandor Kadar, Ducha Hang, and two students, Kevin Farrington and Nicole Viebrock. Questions driving their exploration: Will E-Portfolios enhance student learning? Will E-Portfolios keep us competitive? The committee's recommendations are being made without haste, and will probably come next year after deliberation among faculty, students, possible pilots of web-based products, etc. This year may be the last for the use of the current e-portfolios. The committee members will educate themselves and look at various web-based vendors, keeping in mind that the e-portfolio should be flexible, easy for students to use, and useful for both educational and professional development. Examples of discipline-based portfolios will be gathered and shared with departments. There needs to be a clear pedagogical/academic purpose for the use of the e-portfolio; assessment capabilities are a plus, but assessment concerns are not driving the exploration. Laura reminded the faculty that the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) will present **Trent Batson**, the Executive Director of the Association for Authentic, Experiential and Evidence-based Learning (AAEEBL), who will speak on **March 17th at 2:30** in Antone 128. His topic is "Re-Framing the Teaching/Learning Paradigm: Portfolio as Helpful Focus."

Elections: Judith Keenan

Judy stated that a spreadsheet will be sent electronically to all full-time faculty giving pertinent data to be used for ballots for elections for committees. Please check the sheet for any errors related to your own information, or notify Judy if you note that someone has been omitted from the list.

Ad Hoc Committee on Rigor

Due to the lateness of the hour, this committee's report and ensuing discussion will be postponed until the next meeting.

Announcements from the Floor

Peter Liotta stated that on Wednesday, April 21, from 10-11:15, Prince Alois, the Regent of Liechtenstein, will be at Salve in the Pell Center. This is an opportunity to see and hear an acting head of state. More information will be forthcoming.

Mary Montminy-Danna and Kitty Rok informed faculty that they are sponsoring an online silent auction as a fund raiser "Hearts for Haiti", the proceeds of which will be used to help rebuild a school there. Help is needed to organize the event, to donate items for the auction, and to encourage bidding on the items. The event will be held in April, with more information forthcoming.

Craig Condella passed out a survey regarding faculty wishes for the venue for the end-of-the year social. He also let it be known that a faculty softball team is again being organized for a game against the students. Those interested in playing can contact him.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gibbons (for Linda Crawford, Secretary)