

8-24-2005

## EC Minutes 2005 08 24

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### Recommended Citation

"EC Minutes 2005 08 24" (2005). *Faculty Assembly Documents*. Paper 153.  
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## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the FACULTY ASSEMBLY**

Minutes of the meeting of August 24, 2005

*Present:* Jay Lacouture (Chair)  
Thomas Day, James Garman, Carol Gibbons, Johnelle Luciani RSM,  
Paula Martasian, John Quinn, Barbara Sylvia, Lisa Zuccarelli OP

Before the meeting was called to order the committee met with the President.

Sister Therese expanded on her letter of August 17, 2005 to the faculty which noted that the University has retained the services of a consultant to assist her over the next several years with the assessment of administrative units. She spoke about the growth and development of the University during the last decade and that she had determined this was an appropriate time to retain the services of an objective consultant. Sister Therese reiterated the importance of maintaining academic excellence noting the priority in the allocation of resources that has been given to the academic area which included improved compensation for faculty and hiring of additional faculty as well as expanded and improved academic facilities. This commitment remains a priority.

Sister Therese informed the Executive Committee that Dr. Theresa Madonna, Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be on administrative sabbatical during the fall semester. In the interim, Dr. Stephen Trainor, Dr. Lance Carluccio and Dr. George Antone have assumed additional responsibilities in the academic area and she has created the temporary position of Assistant to the President for Academic Administration. This person will work with the deans and the directors in the academic area to help facilitate good communication and smooth functioning of all academic services. She informed the Executive Committee that a Search Committee to seek candidates to fill the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs will be appointed by September 15, 2005. The consultant will begin his work with the assessment of the area of academic affairs. His observations will be shared with the President and will help to inform the selection of the next Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Sister Therese expressed her confidence and trust in the faculty and noted that she anticipated full cooperation from the Executive Committee. She asked for the help of the Executive Committee to facilitate smooth functioning and to enable creative and responsive curriculum changes without undo delays. She asked that the Faculty Assembly in all deliberations consider how we can best continue to work together to create an atmosphere of collegiality and respect throughout the University.

Following some discussion, Sister Therese also pointed out that when a student is successful, the institution is most successful. There are times when a department must give a little for another, all in the interest of the students. She also noted that Salve Regina is now facing very stiff competition for the talented students we seek to enroll especially from those institutions which have large endowments. This places them at an advantage to do things which we can not do with our limited endowment. Building the endowment continues to be a priority for the Board of Trustees.

She thanked the Executive Committee for their time, continued support and cooperation.

Jay Lacouture, the Chair and new Speaker of the Assembly, thanked Sister Therese and assured her of the faculty's cooperation.

1. **Call to Order and Minutes.** After the President left, the Chair called the meeting to order at 2:41 PM. The Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of June 6 were approved. The committee reviewed the Minutes for the June 8 Assembly meeting, which was in Executive Session.
2. The Chair thanked Sister Johnelle Luciani for her leadership as Speaker and added that the faculty appreciated all she had done for the Faculty Assembly. The Chair then welcomed new members of the committee.

3. **Election of Officers**

Vice Speaker	John Quinn
Treasurer	Carol Gibbons
Secretary	Thomas Day

James Garman agreed to assist the Secretary.

4. **Committees.** The committee discussed the matter of asking faculty to volunteer for the following: the Faculty Advisory Committee on Salary and Benefits, the Social Committee, and the "pool" of faculty who are willing to be asked to serve on an ad hoc grievance committee.

Four members of the faculty serve on the Faculty Commission on the Faculty Manual: two appointed by the administration and two appointed by and from the Executive Committee. The committee appointed Jay Lacouture last year for a two-year term on the commission. He will resign; the committee decided that Johnelle Luciani will take his place. Thomas Day, the other member of the Faculty Manual Commission appointed by the Executive Committee, has another year in his two-year term.

5. **Discussion.** Members of the committee brought up a variety of matters they thought should be worked on in the coming year:

. . . the Faculty Responsibilities Committee and the Assembly's relation to it . . . workload . . . the accountability of committees (the importance of committees delivering on what they are charged to do) . . .

. . . department autonomy . . . the merging of departments . . . reaffirming the faculty's role as guardians of the curriculum . . .

. . . meeting with candidates for Vice President for Academic Affairs . . . ways to respond to the President's request for the committee's cooperation . . . the need for a separate Dean of Faculty . . .

. . . a focus on the concerns of faculty on tenure track (e.g., the impractical forms that have to be filled out by typewriter) . . .

. . . a "professional development" follow-up for the Ken Bains presentation . . .

. . . the possibility of a reception for new faculty in someone's house or on campus, just before an Assembly meeting . . .

. . . a brief amount of time at Assembly meetings for faculty to share some positive inspiration in their lives . . .

6. **Meetings.** The next committee meeting will be at 5:50 PM on September 27 in the Miley reserved dining area. The other meetings this semester will be on October 25 and November 22. The Assembly's meetings are scheduled for Fridays at 1:00 PM on October 14 (Ochre Court), November 4 (Ochre Court), and December 2 (Bazarsky).
7. **Agenda.** The committee approved the agenda for the October 14 Assembly meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM.