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# SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSEMBLY

## Minutes of the Meeting of March 4, 2002 Ochre Court

Johnelle Luciani, RSM, Speaker of the Assembly, presided.

Before the meeting was called to order, the Speaker read a letter from Ron Atkins, Chair of the Business Studies Department. In this letter he thanked the Assembly for its endorsement of the department's proposed curriculum changes. He also noted that the department, in its planning for these changes and discussions with other departments, followed the Assembly's Protocol for proposing substantial curriculum changes. The Protocol process, he stated, worked well.

1. **Call to Order and Minutes.** The meeting was called to order at 2:08 PM. The Minutes for the February 4 meeting were approved.
2. **Social Committee.** Elaine Daniels reported that the Social Committee is open to suggestions for a place to hold the year-end party, preferably at a location on the island. Suggestions can be sent to Judith Keenan, Eula Fresch or her.
3. **Core Curriculum.** John Greeley, Co-Chair of the Deliberative Committee on the Core Curriculum, reported on the progress of plans for the new Core Curriculum scheduled to begin in the fall of 2003. He noted that the Development Teams for the course areas have submitted (1) their first reports with basic concepts for the area and (2) completed matrices (with the goals and objectives that the course areas will cover). A compilation of all the information in the combined matrices shows that the total Core Curriculum planned by the Development Teams will cover all of the goals and objectives approved by the Faculty Assembly.

The next step will be the development and approval of specific courses in the course areas, according to the Timetable approved by the Faculty Assembly.

The Chairs of Professional Programs/Departments and other departments were reminded that they should notify the Chair of the appropriate Development Team, in writing, about any core requirements that might impinge on their majors. A copy of this written concern is also sent to the Deliberative Committee on the Core Curriculum.

In a brief discussion after this report, these points were raised: (1) One Development Team should know what is coming out of another Development Team. As soon as possible, these Teams will need some way of circulating reports on their progress. (2) The new core will be inaugurated in the fall of 2003 and the entire core program will be like a large department. Well before that date, a governance system for this quasi-department should be in place and functioning.

J. Greeley responded by saying that Development Teams' reports will be circulated after the Deliberative Committee meets with Chairs of these Teams and clarifies any ambiguities in the reports. A governance system will be necessary for the core program, but establishing it should come after the Faculty Assembly has given its approval to the courses in the core.

4. **Benefits.** The Assembly heard descriptions of two benefits now available to the faculty:

**Resource International Employee Assistance Service (RIEAS).** The Assembly received copies of a brochure with information about RIEAS. The brochure described REIAS as “a confidential source of help for personal concerns.” One section of the brochure states:

Our [Salve Regina University] Employee Assistance Program, a free service available as a benefit to all employees and their family members, is a confidential, professional resource for persons needing information, or assessment and referral to counseling or other resources within their community . . . So, if a personal problem is affecting the quality of your life, RIEAS is there to help.

Faculty may contact RIEAS about matters such as the following: family, marital, and partnership issues; addictive disorders (their own or of family members); health concerns; mental health concerns; debt; and dependent care. The staff at RIEAS is non-judgmental and all inquiries are confidential. The staff will help to establish a plan of action and, if needed, will give information about appropriate helping resources within the community. There is no charge for this service.

RIEAS only reports the following to the University: the number of employees who have asked for help and the types of the inquiries.

**CollegeBoundfund.** Paul Tavares, Rhode Island State Treasurer, spoke to the Assembly about Rhode Island’s CollegeBoundfund: a 529 College Savings Program. Brochures were made available.

5. **Web Based Applications.** Ty Brennan, Director of Information Technologies, spoke to the Assembly about new Web-based applications at the University, especially the events scheduling system.
6. **Connections Day.** Laura McPhie Oliveira, Vice President for Enrollment / Dean of Admissions, gave the Assembly an update on Connections Day. Applications are 12% ahead of last year. She stated that, because the University is being more selective in accepting freshmen, higher “yields” (the enrollments that result from the application process) are harder to obtain. Connections Day has become critically important in improving these “yields.” She suggested that Salve graduates be part of Department presentations at Connections Day; testimonials from graduates will be influential. The Alumni office will be helpful for locating alumni.
7. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.