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Faculty Assembly Minutes
October 5th, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 2:39. Faculty used the clicker to check in and 66 faculty members were present.

1. The minutes for the April 2011 faculty assembly meeting were approved. The vote was 72 yes and 1 no.
2. Reports and Announcements

Opening Remarks (James Mitchell). Dr. Mitchell announced that all faculty assembly material will be distributed using mywebcourses. Individual faculty members can access the material via the webpage (mywebcourses.salve.edu) and will need to log on using their individual Salve username and password. Dr. Mitchell also announced that the Faculty Assembly would be utilizing clicker technology for the voting process this upcoming year. Dr. Mitchell highlighted the individual professional development funds available to all faculty and encouraged individuals to complete their faculty profiles for the University website.

Treasurer's Report (Craig Condella). Dr. Condella announced that there was \$370 in the Faculty Assembly fund. The fund is used for the end of the year party, gifts for faculty and staff that have undergone a major life event, and other business for the Faculty Assembly. Dr. Condella encouraged faculty to pay their dues (\$20). Dr. Condella also announced a meeting for GreenSalve on October 19th at 2:30 in the Jazzman café.

Parliamentarian: (Steve Symington). Dr. Symington announced that Dr. James Yarnell has agreed to serve as the Faculty Assembly's Parliamentarian. Dr. Yarnell will participate in an online training course. A call for additional volunteers was put forth to the Faculty Assembly to seek an additional Parliamentarian.

Faculty Athletic Representative (John Rok). Mr. Rok announced GPA history of the Salve athletic teams and provided statistics about SRU's student-athletes (material distributed). He indicated that Salve students are fully integrated in intercollegiate athletics. He explained how faculty could become involved with the student's athletes by serving as individual team faculty mentors. The role of the team faculty mentor role varies from team to team. Mr. Rok concluded his presentation by soliciting faculty volunteers for team faculty mentors and members to serve on the student athlete advisor committee. If you would like to serve please contact Mr. Rok via email.

FACSB (James Yarnell). Dr. Yarnell announced that he would be serving as the chairperson for FACSB. He thanked the administration for the changes made to the faculty development funds. Dr. Yarnell also announced that FACSB would meet on Wednesday October 12th at 2:30 in the Jazzman café. He encouraged faculty to serve on this committee. A goal of FACSB in the upcoming year is to develop a questionnaire to survey faculty needs. If you are willing to serve on the committee, please contact Dr. Yarnell via email.

Volunteers for the Grievance Committee (James Mitchell). Dr. Mitchell called for volunteers to be available to serve on issues brought before the Grievance Committee. If you are interested in making yourself available, please contact Dr. Clark Merrill or Dr. Art Frankel via email.

Curriculum Committee Proposals (James Mitchell). Dr. Mitchell announced a call for proposals for a curriculum committee in response to concerns raised by the NEASC review team. Dr. Mitchell requested that the starting point for the proposals be based upon the previous curriculum proposal submitted last year. A copy of the old curriculum committee proposal is posted on the Faculty Assembly mywebcourses website. Please prepare your proposals by the November Faculty Assembly meeting.

Retention Committee (James Mitchell). Dr. Mitchell announced a call for volunteers to serve on the University retention committee. Dr. O'Toole is seeking 1 faculty member from the arts and natural sciences and another from the professional programs. Individuals should submit their name to Dr. Mitchell by October 15th, 2011. An election to select the members of the election committee will take place in early November.

3. Invited guests

International Studies Program: (Erin FitzGerald). Ms. FitzGerald discussed her goals for the Office of International Programs. She indicated that she is currently taking an inventory of the international programs and services that are currently offered. She looks to develop a comprehensive institutional approach to internationalization and seeks to enrich student experiences and learning both in the programs overseas and across campus. She is hoping to collaborate closely with the faculty in these efforts.

University Counseling Services (Liz Minifee). Liz Minifee introduced the counseling staff, discussed hours of operation and on call service. A brochure was distributed that contains important notes and contact information. Please call or email counseling services if you have any questions or referrals. Issues of student confidentiality were also discussed and it was noted that students can have up to 15 visits per semester.

Question and Answer Period with President Gerety (Sister Jane Gerety). President Gerety responded to faculty questions concerning the draft academic vision, core curriculum review and timeline of the review process. President Gerety commented on the process of the development of the draft academic vision and discussed the importance of making the student academic experience central to Salve Regina University. She expressed her desire to make Salve Regina a university of distinction based on strong academic programs that are responsive to the needs of the modern student and the global community. She seeks to have the faculty create a forward thinking comprehensive academic plan that still maintains access for students from diverse social and economic backgrounds. President Gerety also announced a new fundraising campaign that focuses on scholars and scholarships. The goal of this campaign is to enhance the academics and academic reputation of Salve Regina University which is vital for the long term vitality of our community.

Question and Answer Period Provost de la Motte (Dean de la Motte). Provost de la Motte presented a summary of some of the critical data discussed at the academic vision and at the opening year faculty meeting and outlined why there is a need to assess the academic programs. He indicated that college is increasingly unaffordable and middle-tier liberal arts colleges are at risk of declining applicants. Provost de la Motte indicated that the 10 year average retention rate for Salve Regina University is 77%. Upper-tier liberal arts colleges that have a high academic reputation have higher retention rates approaching 95%. Data collected from the senior exit survey, NSSE, and NEASC review suggest that there is a significant gap

between student satisfaction with the core and with the individual academic programs. Surveys of incoming students also indicate that accepted students perceive the quality of Salve Regina's academic programs to be lower than other schools to which they have applied. Provost de la Motte then responded to faculty questions concerning the draft academic vision, core curriculum review and timeline of the review process. Questions concerning the model for the curriculum task force were raised. Provost de la Motte responded by indicating that he has surveyed other planning models and wanted a task force that was representative of the faculty disciplines but not so large that it was unwieldy. Provost de la Motte also encouraged the Faculty Assembly to provide an alternative structure for the task force and indicated that the model would be considered. Questions were raised about the quality of the assessment of the core curriculum on such a rapid timeline. Provost de la Motte responded that there is flexibility in the suggested timetable but that the review cannot proceed indefinitely. Provost de la Motte concluded his remarks by indicating that he would like the feedback on and endorsement of the faculty on any academic vision and plan, and that the curriculum must ultimately come from the faculty.