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SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Meeting of October 14, 2005

Jay Lacouture, Speaker of the Assembly, presided.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM.

2. **President’s Announcements.** Sister Therese informed the faculty that Mr. and Mrs. Donald Tinney, owners of Belcourt Castle, informed her on Wednesday that they had decided to accept an offer from a private party to purchase Belcourt Castle. While this news is disappointing to the University, any educational opportunities that may be associated with the facility will be pursued with Salve Regina University.

She told the faculty that discussions and plans for the restoration of the Stanford White Casino Theatre at the Tennis Hall of Fame continue and the University is very much a part of that discussion. While this is a slow process, it appears that this project will be seen to its completion.

She told the faculty that the work on University committees is currently being completed and the list of committees will soon be distributed. The standing committees will essentially have the same membership as last year. Ty Brennan will be the Chair of the Technology Committee and Stephen Trainor will Chair the Committee on Faculty Responsibilities. The Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Development is being subsumed into the Advisory Committee on Academic Grants. She then asked for the faculty’s cooperation when there is a call for volunteers to participate in a pilot program for on-line registration for next semester.

Sister Therese asked the faculty to note the date of Tuesday, December 20th. Sister said she would like to host the faculty and their guests for a Faculty Christmas Reception and Holly Dinner in Ochre Court on that evening. She asked the faculty to be alert to the response date for the dinner.

3. **New Faculty.** The Speaker welcomed new faculty and introduced them to the Assembly.

4. **Treasurer.** There is $516 in the Assembly’s account.

5. **FACSB.** Lois Eveleth invited members of the Assembly to volunteer for the Faculty Advisory Committee on Salary and Benefits. She passed out a handout entitled “A Brief Chronology,” which contained FACSB’s charge and a brief history of the committee.

6. **Report from the Dean of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education.** Lance Carluccio, Dean of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education, brought the Assembly up-to-date on various developments. Among the topics he reported on were the following: revisions in the graduate Administration of Justice program; the relationship with The College Network; an articulation agreement with Mt. Aloysius College; the Health Services Administration program efforts for community outreach; an early entry option for the Holistic Counseling
Program; the Masters and Doctoral programs in Humanities; changes in the payments given to mentors/readers for the doctoral program; separate research methodology sections for graduate students studying the Humanities. Dean Carluccio recommended to the President that he no longer be in charge of the Humanities degree programs and that Dr. Michael Budd direct this program. Dr. Michael Budd, with the approval of the President will become the director effective in the beginning of the spring 2006 semester.

Dr. Carluccio also announced that the MA in Rehabilitation Counseling received national accreditation by the Council on Rehabilitation Education. In addition, he pointed out that the degree completion in nursing has grown by over 300% since the fall 2003. The BA in Management program was launched this fall; three of the General Education Core Courses will be developed and will have been taught by the end of this fall for degree completion. The proposal for degree completion in Social Work is being discussed further with the department.

7. Curriculum Changes – Announcements

Graduate International Relations Program. For information purposes, Myra Edelstein announced the following course change in the Graduate International Relations Program:

Delete: INR 573 Comparative Public Policy
Replace with: ADJ/INR/MGT 572 Complex Humanitarian Emergencies: Prevention and Responses

Jay Lacouture temporarily stepped out of the chair. John Quinn chaired the meeting.

Core Curriculum – Art Course. Marialyn Riley, RSM, on behalf of the Core Curriculum Advisory Committee, announced that this committee had unanimously approved the following proposed course as an addition to the Core Complement courses available for the Visual and Performing Arts:

ART 131 Drawing I: Representation and Reflection.

The Assembly will vote on the proposal at a later meeting.

Jay Lacouture returned to the chair.

Core Curriculum – Core Capstone. Daniel Cowdin, a member of the Capstone Development Team, presented a detailed description of a proposed course that would complete the plan of the new Core Curriculum program:

Capstone Course: Living Wisdom: Contemporary Challenges

During the discussion, Prof. Cowdin answered questions about the proposed description of the course and Dean Stephen Trainor also offered some clarifications. Some of the points raised:

Degree Completion – The Team has not yet discussed how the course will be implemented in a Degree Completion program.
Assigned Cohorts – The Team has not yet addressed that level of detail about the students assigned to a section. It would seem that a mix of students would be better for each section of the course and would be the easiest to schedule.
Items on the reading list that are already covered in other courses – The reading list in the proposal (described as “Texts under consideration . . .”) is still being developed. There is no
problem with overlap. Some students might have read a certain item in another course but others have not. A student who has already read an item may see it in another perspective in this course.

The concentration on a Judeo-Christian perspective under “. . . Relevant Core Goals and Objectives Being Met” – The objectives with a Judeo-Christian focus are from the Goals of the Core Curriculum approved by the Assembly and should be read in the context of the whole Core. If taken individually and out of context, a specific objective could be seen as excluding other perspectives and a “red flag.” These objectives are a starting-point for a broad educational exploration and will not restrict what students will encounter in the course. Students will be exposed to other religious perspectives in RST 210, a required Core course.

According to Dean Trainor, the Core Capstone course will be built into a student’s four-year advising plan. If there are some students who find that they have to take the Core Capstone as an extra course because of heavy Major requirements, exceptions will be granted as necessary so that additional fees can be waived.

The design team considered but ultimately rejected the idea of including a formal thesis in Capstone course in view of the fact that many students are already doing a thesis in their majors or in the Pell Honors Program.

A Motion to endorse the Core Capstone proposal will be presented for debate and vote at the November Assembly meeting.

8. New Business

Barbara Shamblin of the Art Department invited everyone to see her exhibit of photography at the Newport Art Museum.

9. The Speaker’s remarks before calling for Executive Session

In preparation for the next part of the meeting, the Speaker made some comments on Executive Session. He noted the Faculty Assembly did not invent the idea of Executive Session at Salve Regina. The Board of Trustees, administrators, students, and others have forums where only their members are present.

The call for Executive Session is meant to allow faculty to talk freely to faculty. It is the faculty’s time to discuss issues that are important to them as academicians. It is intended to provide a free forum for sharing ideas with their peers, without the possibility of any inhibiting or unfavorable reaction from anyone who is not a member of the full-time Teaching Faculty.

“With this spirit” in mind, he asked that only full-time Teaching Faculty remain for the next portion of the meeting.

The meeting resumed in Executive Session at 2:15 PM.