

Minutes

Brown University Faculty Meeting

May 1, 2007

President Simmons called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. The customary motion to adjourn no later than 6:00 p.m. carried, and the minutes of the meeting of April 3 were approved without dissent.

At the motion of Professor Dill the faculty stood in respect for those who lost their lives at Virginia Technical University and for those affected by this tragic event.

Professor Aronson read a memorial minute for the late Professor Jack Savran, which was received by the faculty with a standing vote of respect with copies of the minute to be sent to the members of the family. The minute is attached and will be entered in the permanent records of the Faculty.

Reporting on the Faculty Forum on science education, Professor Dill noted that after this well-attended forum, the ad hoc committee will submit a report as posted on the faculty affairs web page. Reports on Banner and from the committee of nominations are also on-line.

Matters under continuing consideration by the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) include: leaves for senior lecturers with a report forthcoming to be based upon information gathered now and upon a report earlier prepared by William Crossgrove; a charge will be prepared for the Faculty Affairs Committee; the FEC will consider separately the issue of "release" time for faculty with research appointments. Professor Dill thanked her fellow officers and the FEC for a year of work well done, and encouraged faculty members to bring their friends to future meetings, to which there was general consent among those present, along with an expression of thanks to Professor Dill and her colleagues on the FEC, along with the caveat from Professor Valente that one should also bring one's enemies to the meeting.

After action taken in executive session, Professor Pelcovits thanked Professor Dill for her great skill in leading discussion and in particular for her diligence in promoting a better order of business for meetings, in which thanks those present concurred with a joyful noise.

President Simmons with similar concurrence of the faculty likewise thanked Professor Dill and her colleagues who thus join successive ranks of excellent leaders on the FEC. President Simmons, expressing sympathy for the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech and their families, asserted the need for preparing for the unimaginable. As noted in a widely distributed campus email, Brown has an Emergency Action Plan; a plan for a health crisis such as SARS; and a plan for natural disaster like hurricanes or blizzards.

The decision making framework and communication plan are in place. But since not planning can ever be complete, a recent Executive Committee meeting addressed areas for continued attention, given that emergencies allow for no second chances. Col. Porter will advise if critical needs beyond those recently fulfilled in the number, training, and equipping of our police are critical to preparedness. A hostile intruder on campus would immediately initiate coordination with the Providence Police, and Col. Porter and Chief Esserman have been working to strengthen such coordination. When President Simmons called upon the faculty for questions to her or Col. Porter or other officers, Professor Russom asked about the procedures for clearing a building, and Vice President Hunter responded that each building is provided with an emergency action coordinator and an action plan. Since timely communication is important, we now have the capacity to broadcast a message to the community by email, voice mail, and the web; through radio and television announcements, and through personnel in place. Walter Hunter expects by June 1 to have a vendor to provide new technology to enable messages to be delivered in minutes to thousands of cell phones, home phones, work phones, blackberries, and computers. We are also exploring traditional warning systems, including sirens. Since community awareness of procedures is critical, Vice President Hunter is working on programs beyond mere web posting to alert members of our community to emergency resources and the actions to be expected in various emergencies. Asked if parents would be notified in a crisis, President Simmons stated that with the consent of the Corporation, in the event of a situation threatening health and safety, parents will be notified even at the risk of violating privacy laws. President Simmons also raised the question of how the Virginia Tech incident raises questions on how best to support those members of the community struggling with mental illness and those who care for them. She advised faculty members that they may well be the first to identify a concern being among those in whom a student chooses to speak about a potential threat. Among resources available to us are the office of the Dean of the College, the office of Student Life, and Psychological Services. Emergency appointments are always available in a crisis. On the weekend or in the evening, the administrator on call is available through the Department of Public Safety (863 3322). There will be follow-up, to the extent permitted by confidentiality, about the resolution. No one should feel sole responsibility for handling a potentially serious situation, especially if there is concern for one's own safety since trained resources are available. Imminent threats should be reported immediately to the Department of Public Safety at extension 3-4111. Faculty members will be notified when a website is available posting this emergency information. The offices of the Dean of the College, of the Dean of Campus Life, and of Psychological Services meet regularly to review cases of troubled students and are ready to advise hospitalization and medical leave, if necessary. When safety is at risk, no contact orders and trespass order can be issued, and an emergency removal can be executed. President Simmons also noted that those struggling with mental illness are among us listening to the public debate following Virginia Tech, and that we need to be certain not to stigmatize mental illness as we prepare to deal with crisis preparedness. The Corporation shares these concerns, and they look forward to our report on preparations. This May meeting of the Corporation will be Steve Roberts's last as chancellor, after nine years marked by change and progress under his leadership. He will be honored for his leadership and guidance at this meeting. On July 1 Tom Tisch will become chancellor and Jerome Vascellaro vice-chancellor, and

President Simmons expressed her happiness in working with them. Of Mr. Tisch's politics as described in a recent *Brown Daily Herald* article, President Simmons stated that she and he agree to silent disagreement, and she called the attention of the Faculty to Mr. Tisch's documented history of support for the Faculty. Six new term trustees and five new alumni trustees will also join pending Corporation approval. Committee leadership is also likely to change.

Provost Kertzer reported on graduate admissions and funding issues. All requests for sixth year funding have been fulfilled. As of now in the admissions process, in Biology and Medicine 90 offers were made last year with a yield of 46; this year 93 with a yield of 45. In the humanities, physical sciences and social science last year's target of 170 was reduced to 160 this year with a yield of 154 so far. The new task force will address any potential recruitment and retention issues of the new five-year guarantee. At Provost Kertzer's request Dean Sheila Bonde confirmed that with the yields not yet fixed, this year represented the largest pool so far at 6776 with modestly reduced yield of 358. The doctoral pool was up to 4791 from 4400. The modest decline may be due to targeting excellence. International and minority student issues continue to be important; and Associate Dean of the Graduate School Valerie Wilson now reports 67 in yield. Provost Kertzer reported that he is summoning a working group to address graduate student support, the study the size and scope of the graduate school now and in the future in the most flexible and forward-looking way.

Ombudsperson Flora Keshgegian reported on highlights in her written report. In her nine months in this newly created position, she has been contacted by 28 people and met with 24 one or more times. The pool is more from Bio-Med than other areas and more female than male, with a wide variety of issues and concerns, although communication seems to be a common thread. She is able to provide information about policies and procedures, about what is possible and what is not, and to keep communication going even though any given issue may not be susceptible to final resolution. She is happy to visit departments and to consult about group dynamics and to facilitate discussion. She reported that the location of her office on the third floor has been ideal, calling attention to her availability on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. A question about the availability of the ombudsperson to post-doctoral fellows was raised, and it was indicated that this was not now possible.

Associate Provost Nancy Dunbar reported on the implementation of the Banner student information system, with the clock only minutes away from reaching the 5:00 p.m. deadline for fall 2007 pre-registration. Ms. Dunbar alerted the Faculty to implementation beyond the registration process, Banner being an integrated information system measured by different milestones, with such large matters as the billing of accounts receivable for students kicking in June 25 and the conversion of student records from old to new taking place from March to December, each separate element in this process having its own complex set of issues. Initial systematic concerns about online registration seem to have been answered by successful results. As of 1:30 p.m. on this day 92% rising sophomore, 80% rising junior, 87% rising senior, 53% graduate pre-registrations have been processed, totaling 5041. Matters of limited enrollment seem to be addressed by the

system, with 293 sections now enrolled and 61 sections closed for rising sophomores, for example. Ms. Dunbar reported that MyCourses does not appear to be widely used. In response to questions about the effect Banner will have on the shopping period, Ms. Dunbar expressed hopefulness, and in regard to the electronic course announcement system she acknowledged that many of Brown's unique curricular needs had tested the system and that she hoped the system can be adjusted to provide information better as the operation is tested through use. The Faculty acknowledged the labor and good will of Associate Provost Dunbar and all those in the Banner process.

Professor Lusk referred to the faculty to the list of nominations distributed for the meeting, and these nominations were unanimously approved as follows:

TEMPORARY REPLACEMENTS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN INVESTMENT POLICIES

Harold Ward (Environmental Studies) replacing Eli Upfal (Computer Science) to June 30, 2008.

Appointments to be effective July 1, 2007:

OFFICERS OF THE FACULTY

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Peter Richardson (Engineering) continuing to June 30, 2008.

SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

Stephen Foley (English) continuing to June 30, 2008.

CHAIR OF THE FACULTY FORUM

Thomas Banchoff (Mathematics) continuing to June 30, 2008.

SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY FORUM

Laurie Heller (Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences) continuing to June 30, 2008.

REGULAR THREE-YEAR TERMS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN INVESTMENT POLICIES

Louis Putterman (Economics) replacing Harold Ward (Environmental Studies) to June 30, 2010.

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COUNCIL

Jin Li (Education) to replace Luther Spoehr (Education) to June 30, 2010.

Pauline Luong (Political Science) to replace Claudia Elliott (International Relations) to June 30, 2010.

Constantine Dafermos (Applied Mathematics) to replace Bill Patterson (Engineering) to June 30, 2010.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Taylor (English) to replace C.D. Wright (English) to June 30, 2010.

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL FACULTY APPOINTMENTS (CMFA)

George Karniadakis (Applied Mathematics) to replace Donald McClure (Applied Mathematics) to June 30, 2010.

FACULTY COMMITTEE ON RESUMED UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION POLICY & ADMISSION COMMITTEE (FRUEPAC)

Tara Nummedal (History) to replace Elizabeth Bryan (English) to June 30, 2010.

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Yan Liang (Geological Sciences) to replace Iris Bahar (Engineering) to June 30, 2010.

Elie Bienenstock (Applied Mathematics) to replace Steven Reiss (Computer Science) to June 30, 2010.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ACADEMIC CODE

Thomas Doeppner (Computer Science) continuing to June 30, 2010.

Robert Patrick (Neuroscience) to replace Catherine Dube (Community Health) to June 30, 2010.

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Tamar Katz (English) to replace Coppelia Kahn (English) to June 30, 2010.

Professor Hogan, chair of the committee on Tenure, Promotions and Appointment (TPAC) noted in addition to his written report that the committee has heard 59 cases, confirmed 50 and denying 9. In response to a question from Dean Bergeron, he explained that TPAC has worked out conflict of interest policies for those faculty members with potential department or program conflicts and for similar conflicts should a family member be involved.

Professor Reginster affirmed his report on behalf of the Academic Priorities Committee. Dean Bergeron referred questions on the College Curriculum Council annual report to vice-chair William Patterson, since the report goes to 2005-2006, before her tenure. Reporting for the Committee on Diversity in Hiring (CDH), Professor Valles addressed concerns about the over lapping work of the CDH and the Committee on the Status of Women and their possible merger. Professor Colwill asked Professor Valles to comment on the state of diversity at Brown over the last ten years. He was unable to answer and directed the question to Brenda Allen who provided statistics for the last five years.

Professor Rabb inquired about family care and maternity leave policy; the policies are under report to the FEC through the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Their being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Merriam Foley
Secretary of the Faculty