

**College Assembly
April 18, 2002**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the College Assembly was called to order at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 18, 2002 in room 332 of Bobet Hall. Dean Frank Scully chaired the assembly, secretary was present. Father Leo Nicoll led the invocation.

2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Georgia Gresham announced A&S Theatre Night. Staff/Faculty Annual Fund Drawing Winners of gift certificates for Commander's Palace Restaurant were Robert Thornton and Paul Wilson.

3. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS** – Dean Scully revisited the motion to empower the Ad Hoc Strategic Salary Committee to proposed expectations of faculty performance applicable across departmental lines. The Assembly had had a significant discussion at its last meeting, but it did not reach a consensus. Lynn Koplitz stated that the committee was appointed, not elected and suggested that an election be held. An amendment to make the committee an elected one was moved and seconded. Leslie Parr stated that there were already many committees working on salaries. Lynn Koplitz stated that the handbook suggested that the departmental protocol is where expectations of faculty performance are put forward. She added that because departments had protocols, she was not sure that they needed the other committees. Georgia Gresham stated that one of the issues that the College Planning Team addressed was the idea that a committee be formed that addressed all college protocols. Somehow they needed to get committees not duplicating so much. They needed linkage and perhaps the motion, though important, was premature to the protocol committee. Joe Harris stated that he thought the route taken to be confusing and he would like to see some clarity. Mary Blue stated that she thought the committee would come up with the first part and the second committee would apply that. She thought there would be lots of input from lots of different people. Georgia Gresham made a motion to table this motion until the protocol committee has met and completed their work. Dean Scully stated that he did not want to go into salary negotiations next spring unless the College had something that people could understand across department lines. He added that if the motion did not pass, he would then ask the departments to develop individual protocols. The motion to table was seconded. 47 people were in favor to table the motion. 11 people were opposed to table the motion. The motion was tabled. A motion to establish the College Planning Team as a standing committee to be appropriated in the College of Arts & Sciences handbook was introduced. Georgia Gresham stated that the Interim College Planning Team had amended the protocol of the CPT to include most of the suggestions mentioned in the previous College Assembly -- the one not accepted was to remove the Dean as a voting member. Mary Blue added that it is not confrontational for the Dean to not be a voting member. An advisor advises and the committee does what they want to do with the advice. Bernard Cook stated that he did not see why the Dean should not have a vote, that what the Dean advised would still have to be brought to the assembly. Georgia Gresham stated that it would depend on the issue as to what body would hear the issue. The question was called and seconded. All were in favor of calling the question. The motion to accept the attached protocol to establish the College Planning Team as a standing committee to be appropriated in the College of Arts Sciences Handbook. 57 people were in favor of the motion to accept, 8 were opposed, no abstentions

Dean Scully introduced the plus-minus grading policy. The motion was presented and seconded. Dean Scully stated that the Deans had met and suggested that the implementation take place in fall 2003. Beau Dupre stated that many students were opposed to the policy. Bobby Hjortsberg, SGA President, expressed student concerns through a letter and asked that the motion be tabled until a forum for students could be set up. Mary McCay moved to table the motion and it was seconded. 13 people agreed, 49 were opposed. Tony Ladd stated that he did not understand the

logic of not assigning a D- and also not affording any quality points since a D- is still passing. An amendment was offered to make a D- a .7 on the scale. The motion was seconded. Bridget Dow wanted to stress getting information out to the students. Francis Coolidge questioned the process of the plus-minus grading policy. Georgia Gresham was in favor and did agree that not enough information had been communicated. The question was called and seconded on the amendment. 63 were in favor of the amendment to add D-, 2 were opposed. There was friendly discussion on the motion. Leslie Parr stated that the grading scale had frustrated her for years; if you have pluses, you should have minuses. Leo Nicoll stated that the grading seemed advantageous to students and questioned what concrete problems the students had. He did not think that the vote should be delayed. Joe Harris stated that he did not understand why they used letter grades that had numerical values. Bettina Cataya stated that she did not understand why there would be changes in Admissions, Financial Aid and Scholarship policy based on GPA. Kate Adams agreed with the students that they should not vote until they understood whether or not the policy would have an impact on financial aid and what it would be. Mark Fernandez stated that the faculty also needed more information. Earl Richard proposed tabling the motion until the next meeting and it was seconded. 3 people were opposed.

A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.