

**College Assembly
September 19, 2002**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the College Assembly was called to order at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2002 in room 332 of Bobet Hall. Dean Frank Scully chaired the assembly, secretary was present. Father Leo Nicoll led the invocation.

2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Catherine Wessinger invited membership to the American Association of University Professors, and offered membership and payroll deduction forms. Tom Smith announced that DSAC had held its elections. The speaker was Jason Van Haverbeke, speaker pro temp was Colby Nathanson, and the secretary was Alexis Franks.

3. **OLD/NEW BUSINESS** – Minutes of March 14, 2002: A suggestion was made by Mary Blue to strike Georgia Gresham's comment about "common questions." It was moved and seconded to accept to strike. There were no objections.

Dean Scully introduced some things that he had brought to the attention of Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees about the College of Arts and Sciences. Strengths were the number of grants awarded, number of books published along with refereed journal articles. Key strengths of the undergraduate program were high quality educational experience, Jesuit values and traditions, students were taught in an environment with close faculty-student interaction.

Senior satisfaction survey showed that most seniors very strongly agreed with the statements "Overall I am satisfied with my experience at Loyola," "I am proud of being a Loyola graduate," "I would recommend Loyola to other prospective students," "I plan on being an active alumnus/alumna of Loyola University and continuing my connection with my alma mater," "I am satisfied with my spiritual development at Loyola and I clearly understand and hope to live out Loyola's Jesuit values." In general our graduates are pleased.

Annual Fund – Dean Scully mentioned that the A&S Phonathon was approaching, asked Chairs to get involved because the Annual Fund has more than doubled. He stated that the amount that went to the departments was significantly more than the amount that went to the Dean's Office and he was satisfied with that.

Enrollments – Dean Scully discussed the changes in the enrollments in the College over the past seven years. He pointed out that the 15% increase in student credit hours had taxed the resources of a number of departments and had required significant numbers of part-time and full-time extraordinary faculty. He reported that approximately one-third of courses in academic year 2001-2002 were taught by non-tenure track faculty. He had submitted a request to the Provost for 20 additional faculty. She has approved five new positions.

He pointed out that there had been erosion in the number of **Advanced Common Curriculum Courses** that had been offered since 1994. In attempt to accommodate increased enrollments, we had increased the number of part-time extraordinary faculty without increases in tenure-track faculty. We have outstanding part-time and extraordinary faculty. It is a disturbing evolution when we have as many as a third of our courses being taught by part-time faculty.

Graduate Programs - most have grown, especially the Counseling Program.

Composition of Faculty – Current composition of the faculty is 2% are African-American, 3% are Hispanic, 6% are Asian American, and 6% are Jesuits. We need to think about increasing the numbers of minorities and Jesuits as departments recruit new faculty.

Recent advances – Over the past year, \$228,500 went to equity increases for salary budget. Since last spring, \$75,000 increase to operating budget, \$66,000 to refresh computers.

Arts and Sciences Strategic Plan – Increased support for faculty development, e.g. faculty travel, prepared faculty for pre-tenure review by allowing a course release, adequately staffed departments by converting five extraordinary/part-time positions to tenure-track faculty positions. Made significant headway in **increasing competitiveness of faculty salaries**. To address upcoming SACS reaccreditation, Dean Scully stated that we needed an Assistant Dean to handle curriculum assessment and Freshmen Year Experience.

Dean Scully commended the contributors to the discussions on the World Trade Center tragedy as they helped enhanced the College's leadership role.

New Students – freshmen average ACT scores 27, SAT 1233 which puts us in the highly selective range. They are more diverse and demographics show an increasing number of out-of-state students.

Lynn Koplitz suggested using the aforementioned data to push for more faculty. Nancy Dupont asked Dean Scully if he was considering paying for more from the travel budget. He responded that he was considering paying for ½ funding for a second trip. Sarah Gualtieri asked if priority was given to Jesuit faculty. He stated that we needed both Jesuits and minority faculty and that we would recruit both with equal vigor. Connie Rodriguez stated that there was a process in place with Advanced Common Curriculum review and asked if there was a plan to reinstate the process. Dean Scully stated that he would look into it. Edward McCaughan asked why had there been a decline in the number of Advanced Common Curriculum courses. Connie Rodriguez answered that there was a correlation between the decreased number of advanced courses and an increased number of intro. Edward McCaughan asked Dean Scully if he thought the Provost considered better recruitment of minority faculty a priority and would support any efforts to recruit minority faculty. Dean Scully answered that he would pay when there is a position if the Provost's office wouldn't. Mary Blue asked where they were going to put the new faculty. Dean Scully answered that there were potential places. Laurie Joyner asked if there were a process in place for release time before pre-tenure review. Dean Scully answered in the affirmative. Craig Hood stated he expected that the Dean would be fighting for space renovations directly affecting Arts & Sciences. Conrad Raabe added that the University Senate recently revived the Space Allocation Committee. Marcus Smith stated that comments about space for the College needed to be put in the "Challenge" section of Dean Scully's presentation.

Plus-Minus Grading System - Julian Wasserman gave a brief recap of the plus/minus grading system and made a friendly amendment to strike #6 regarding (scholarship and financial aid) and seconded. Georgia Gresham stated that she was confused about why it does not protect scholarships. Julian Wasserman stated that students fear A- and losing financial aid. Stephen Rowntree stated that he shared students' concerns. Mark Fernandez asked if the system could be phased in to not affect the current students. Mary Blue stated that this could be deferred to the Chapter 17 committee.

The motion to remove item #6 of the recommendations was made. The question was called. All agreed. None were opposed. Item #6 read "Admissions, financial aid and scholarship policies based on GPA will not be changed" The question was called. All were in favor. None were opposed. All were in favor of removing #6. None were opposed.

Motion to add A+ to the grading scale was made and seconded. 3 agreed, remainder of the assembly disagreed, no abstentions. Georgia Gresham stated that this system gave them the option to use A+ if the professors chose to do so. Phaniel Egejuru agreed. Bobby Hjortsburg

stated that they still had issues to resolve, the students were against this, and maybe they should hold a student forum. Mary McCay added that lots of students were worried by the minus. A motion was made to table the motion until the next College Assembly. Three people were opposed.

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