

COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

MARCH 25, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the College Assembly was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2004 in Room 332 of Bobet Hall. Dean Frank Scully chaired the assembly and secretary Ms. Andrell Gautier was present. Rev. Leo Nicoll, S.J. led the invocation.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A) A&S Theater Night

Dean Scully announced that tonight is A&S Theatre Night. The *Times Picayune* gave *Lysistrata* a good review and the Dean recommended it. The reception starts at 7:00 PM; the play begins at 8:00 PM. Professor Georgia Gresham said that there are only a few tickets available.

B) PIES Applications

PIES applications were due yesterday and the Dean announced that he has received some good proposals. Dr. Scully said that this interest has made him rethink the PIES program and consider offering it every semester.

C) Involvement in FYE

The Committee has settled on the book *Savage Inequalities* by Jonathan Kozol. The Dean said that it is a powerful book and worth reading. The Dean's Office has purchased the book for freshman to be distributed in May. He asked that faculty get involved with discussion sections during orientation; those participating faculty will be provided a book. He also announced that Mr. Kozol will be coming to campus in September, and will also have an opportunity to meet the students; Mr. Kozol will be speaking with the Social Justice groups on campus as well. There will also be a community luncheon with business, political and non-political groups, which will be a great opportunity for Loyola. The Dean also expects participation from the superintendent, other school officials, the school board and other higher education institutions. He asked the faculty to please try and incorporate programs relating to the use of the book that might be helpful for your classes. He added that this book has ramifications in all of the disciplines.

D) RFP Course Releases

Within the next couple of days, there will be an RFP sent to all faculty on course releases related to assessment. Dr. Scully said that by December every single department must have established learning goals, agree on data sources to achieve those learning goals and develop a plan to use the data to revise and improve their curriculum, all of which is a mandatory requirement of SACS. The Dean said that these course releases will be awarded to those willing to plan and head up a department-wide implementation. Applications are due April 19, 2004.

III. OLD BUSINESS

The Dean announced that there is no old business but he said that he has forwarded recommendations on salary increases to the Provost and Vice President of Business and Finance. He assumes that the issue will come up at the University Budget Committee, who is starting to meet now.

***Added Announcement - President Search Committee**

Though the item was not on the agenda, Dr. Earl Richard inquired about the status of the Presidential Search. Dr. Scully asked A&S representative Dr. Mary McCay to speak on the matter. She said that everyone has had an opportunity to meet the two candidates and now the committee is accepting comments by email addressed to Fr. Bradley, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee. She stated that the committee had exit interviews with both candidates. Dr. McCay said that Rev. Robert Niehoff of the University of San Francisco had a few concerns about the freshman tuition being discounted too much, and had no problems in regard to the Law School Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Rev. Kevin Wildes of Georgetown University emphasized his involvement in SACS and expressed his knowledge of assessment and accreditation. Rev. Wildes also stated that the center of the university is academics and that the President is the Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Scully commented that Rev. Niehoff seemed to have the best perspective on the budget and our weaknesses and strengths regarding our financial status with respect to the endowment. Dr. McCay added that the committee meets on April 1 and makes its recommendation to the Board of Trustees on April 17, at which time she presumes they will make a decision. Dr. Earl Richard is concerned that since the Board has the final decision they should be aware of what the rest of the university thinks, especially faculty members. Dr. McCay said that she would be happy to speak on his behalf if he is having any concerns. She then addressed the assembly and said that if anyone would like to address anything to the committee, email her and she will speak as a representative. The suggestion of a straw ballot was made but Dean Scully said that he does not think that is a good idea, because the matter requires more deliberation than simply a majority vote.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A) A&S Response to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Law School

Dr. Marcus Smith distributed a copy of a motion to be amended, as well as an analysis of the terms of the Law School Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Dr. Smith said that the MOU is a separate operating agreement between the university and the Law School as two contracting entities. The Law School set up an arrangement whereby it keeps most of its revenue and continues to draw on the general operating budget for many services but only returns a small portion to the rest of the university. The original MOU was done in 1998 as an undisclosed, ex parte matter. A motion was introduced for disclosure and was received in November 2003 but since then a new MOU was confected; copies of the old and new MOU, along with other related documents are available to faculty for reproduction and circulation. Dr. Smith said that the current MOU lasts until July 2005 but renegotiations start AY 2004-05 and this is the perfect time to respond if we choose. Dr. Smith said that we could seek our own MOU using an equivalent arrangement with the university, which would have catastrophic consequences for the other Colleges but would be useful in the sense of argument. Dr. Smith further suggested that we can also do nothing, or we can propose a motion requesting that the President rescind or revise the MOU. Some faculty stressed that the verbiage be stronger, but Dr. Scully cautioned about forcing a new President's hand. He stated that it is not in the University's best interest any more than the MOU is in the best interest of the University. Dr. Scully concurred that a clear recognition that this is against the whole idea of collegiality, and of what a university is supposed to be, takes the moral high ground and is what the new President needs to hear. Dr. Fernandez stated that we should consult with the Deans of the other Colleges to make a more forceful case. Professor Gresham stressed that we should not assume that the new President would be against this issue and if a milder initial motion is not addressed, we should make it stronger. Due to time constraints, Dean Scully suggested that Dr. Smith alter the motion as a friendly amendment and bring it back to the College Assembly and vote at that time.

Dean Scully thanked Carol for the wonderful bag lunches.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.