

# COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

## SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the College Assembly was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2004. Due to Risk Management concerns about Bobet Room 332, the meeting was held in Bobet Room 219. Dean Frank Scully chaired the assembly and Secretary Ms. Andrell Gautier was present. Rev. Leo Nicoll, S.J. led the invocation.

### II. MINUTES

The minutes for May 2004 were not posted for approval. The Dean stated that they will be posted shortly and approved for the next meeting.

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### A) Kozol FYE Event

Dean Scully thanked all of the faculty and staff that participated in making the Jonathan Kozol event a tremendous success.

#### B) New Senior Development Officer

Dr. Chris Wiseman was introduced to the College as the new Senior Development Officer. Dean Scully stated that in the first time in six years he has felt an excitement that the development in the College is taking off and added that we will need to help fund the agenda through raising dollars.

#### C) Professorships Available

Dean Scully announced that there are new professorships available in the College: *Fr. Joseph H. Fichter, S.J. Professorship in the Social Sciences* and *Moon and Verna S. Landrien Distinguished Teaching Professorship*. The latter is the first endowed professorship we will have in teaching as part of our goal of seeking to increase endowments.

#### D) SACS Update

Dean Scully said that we will be reviewing websites over the next few weeks and giving feedback. The Dean asked chairs to post their plans as quickly as possible to receive feedback early. The deadline is December 1, 2004.

#### E) Critical Thinking Workshop

The Dean's office will be hosting, as part of its initiative for faculty development, a workshop on Critical Thinking with Dr. Peter Facione on Saturday, October 9, 2004 from 8:30-11:30 a.m.. The Dean encouraged all faculty to attend.

### IV. REPORTS

#### A) Update on progress towards SACS reaccreditation

The Dean invited Drs. John Cornwell and David Estes to give an overview of SACS to the College. Dr. Cornwell said that in about one year all of the documentation for our certificate of compliance will be submitted to SACS. He emphasized that departments must post on the web their assessment plans and learning outcomes because all the processes that indicate how we normally do things must be clear in the departments. In November 2005, there will be an off-site review and in December 2005 there will be a phone conversation with the University Leadership Team, which is comprised of the top administrators. After that, the university can respond to any concerns by January 15, 2006. In Spring 2006, a site visit about technical assistance on the QEP will occur and in December

2006, the committee will vote on our reaffirmation, which will be good for the next ten years. Dr. Cornwell said that he and Dr. Joyner will be meeting weekly to go over all of the A&S websites and looking for quality checks and consistency of web pages with other Colleges. As requested by the faculty, Dr. Cornwell will be sending out a checklist to departments as a reference tool for their web pages. Many faculty had concerns regarding the easy accessibility of their syllabi on the web and the University's position regarding the Intellectual Property Policy (IPP). Dean Scully stated that we have a committee and they are supposed to address the College in October with a report. Dr. Nancy Dupont added that the Senate is expected to act by October and the faculty needs to be involved at this stage. Dr. Mary Blue, a member of the IPP committee, addressed the College and said that they decided to send it back to the AAUP for review and have not gotten feedback at this point. Dean Scully said that this is an important point and he will speak with Dr. Cornwell and inform the College at the next meeting.

Dr. David Estes said that the Quality Enhancement Plan is a new design by SACS focusing the faculty on imagining a future that will be characterized by creative, engaging and meaningful learning experiences. He announced that the Interim President last year appointed a committee to examine the process for a meaningful QEP. The Planning Team has approved their recommendation of a committee comprised of nineteen people; the announcement along with the composition of the committee will come shortly. He said that we want to select a project that the University can sustain attention and merit work containing over a year and a half of planning, several years of implementation and multiple years of assessment. Dr. Estes added that this is going to have to be a data driven project and each of the committees will be involved in the procedures. The QEP team will be addressing each committee to put their ideas forward.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A) Motion: To Increase MFL Requirement**

Dean Scully called for a motion to table this matter for the next meeting. The motion was passed.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A) Motion to Accept the Strategic Agenda**

Dr. Mary Blue addressed the College, and noted that the agenda as written does not allow for a faculty role in setting priorities for implementation and budget allocation, and is vague about how the setting of priorities takes place. Dean Scully stressed that Dr. Blue's point was an important one and acknowledged that there is a flaw in the Strategic Agenda. Dr. Blue moved that the college accept the Academic Affairs strategic agenda with the proviso that faculty will have a role in prioritizing the agenda. The motion was seconded. Dr. Blue stated that the language does not change the substance of the agenda, but faculty would have some input into the setting of the budget priorities. Dean Scully said that either we make a decision to accept the motion as it is or start all over. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **VII. ADDITIONAL ITEM\***

##### **A) Requesting a Motion to Create a Task Force on Academic Advising**

Associate Dean Thomas Smith addressed the issue of academic advising. He said that data suggests that advising is an area that needs a great deal of attention and rethinking. He proposed a motion to create a task force on academic advising. There is a significant gap between the importance placed on advising by students and by faculty, and there is evidence that there is a widespread displeasure with the advising experience on both sides. The Associate Dean proposed that the task force would look at best practices in advising and recommend strategies, as well as identify and reward good advising. Dr. Smith would like this motion to be voted on at the next assembly. The faculty suggested as a friendly amendment that the members be elected and that all divisions be represented. Dr. Smith accepted the friendly amendments, as well as the suggestion from Erica Kraus, Sociology DSAC rep, that students should be represented, since they are directly affected by the quality of advising. Dr. Patricia Dorn said that the university-wide Task Force on Advising for Retention and

Success did a lot of work and suggested that we review their documents and work. The Dean stressed that solutions to advising issues should come from the College of A&S, rather than in response to someone else us what we should be doing. Prof. John Biguenet suggested that the problem is faculty development in advising. The Dean stated that we will come back to this next month. The motion was tabled for the next meeting.

**Additional Last Minute Announcements\***

The A&S Dean's Office is sponsoring "Now Let Me Fly" as part of FYE on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gresham announced that if any groups or classrooms need tickets and they are not part of FYE, please see her for accommodations.

On September 30, 2004, the Dean's Office is sponsoring as part of FYE a production at the ASHE Center titled, *13 Lessons*. Tickets are limited and all freshman students and faculty are invited. The Dean said that he hopes to get a good response.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.