

COLLEGE ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 21, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the College Assembly was called to order at 12:30 p.m. on October 21, 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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 15th were approved. unanimously. The motion to postpone the approval of the minutes for September 9th was also passed unanimously. The minutes will be tabled for the next meeting.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Scully announced A&S night for the drama production of *Shakespeare in Hollywood* on November 12, 2004. The Dean hopes that many will attend this event.

Dr. Gnuse invited everyone to the Yamauchi Lecture titled, *God Working in Us Without Us? A Fresh Look at Formation of Virtue* by Florence Caffrey Bourg, Ph.D. on November 7, 2004 at 7:30 pm in Nunemaker Auditorium. Dr. Bourg is a Loyola alumna as well.

Prof. John Biguenet on behalf of the SACS Quality Enhancement Planning (QEP) Team invited the College to the Soup and Substance meeting next Tuesday at 12:30 pm in Miller 114. Prof. Biguenet said there will be an introduction about what a QEP is and its relationship to accreditation, along with discussion on the process and its relation to Loyola University. He encouraged everyone to look at the QEP website to propose QEP topics, which the team will review and make recommendations to the SACS Leadership Team about which topic to consider.

Dr. Michael Ross said that this Friday night a Harvard Professor and Pulitzer Prize Winner will be speaking on campus at 7:00 pm. The title and topic is "Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History."

Dr. Thomas Smith introduced the new DSAC officers for this year: Ms. Erica Kraus from Sociology is the speaker and speaker pro-tem is Ms. Michelle Abbene from Biological Sciences. Dean Scully welcomed them to the Assembly.

Dr. Lynn Koplitz informed the College that there is a proposal going forward to restructure the Honor's Program. The first place it is going is to the Common Curriculum Committee (CCC) as recommended by the Deans and the Provost. The proposal is to change the program so that there is one honors course required in each of the eight disciplinary areas, for a total requirement of 24 credit hours. Dr. Koplitz said that if anyone would like a copy of the proposal please email her. She said that this proposal will be coming to the College Assembly. The Dean said that this proposal is a good one and most of the minor details noted from other Deans can be worked out. Dr. Earl Richard asked that this proposal be brought to the Assembly for initial discussion. He believes that a discussion should occur first in the College before it goes to other committees. Dean Scully said that in the handbook it states that changes in the program have to be approved by the A&S College Assembly. His recommendation to take it to the CCC is based on the Honors Program being built around the Common Curriculum solely because students are taking their forty-eight (48) hours of common curriculum courses in the honors program. The reason it should go to the CCC is that the changes are substantial. The Dean thinks that they [CCC] should comment first and allow the College Assembly to hear their recommendations because it would be a good piece of information. Dr. Lynn Koplitz said that she would post it on the website. The Dean also said that he will get the proposal and send it to the Chairs to distribute to the faculty.

IV. **REPORTS**

A) Report from Ad Hoc Intellectual Property Rights Policy Committee

Dr. Mary Blue gave the report because the Chair of the committee is on sabbatical. She said they agreed to send the proposal to AAUP for comment in the Spring and at this time, they have not yet made comment. Once they do, the committee will come back with recommendations. Dr. Marcus Smith said the proposed policy was drafted by the University administration with the assistance of University Lawyers bearing their interest first and the faculty's interest second. Dr. Smith urged that when we go forward with this, we need to balance those interests more carefully. Dr. Smith offered to give interested parties examples of where in the document this occurs.

B) Report from the University Budget Committee (UBC)

Dr. Connie Rodriguez said the Financial Affairs office provided a multi-page spreadsheet of the past ten years of the university's financial history. Some of the numbers jumped out and she gave a revised report to the Senate earlier this month. Associate Dean Joyner was questioned about errors in the report. This was discussed with the Finance Office and the numbers have not changed, just the language.

Dr. Rodriguez pointed out that in the past ten years the undergraduate A&S population has increased 18.4% and the tuition rate increased 92.1%. The net tuition fees revenue as a percent of total revenue has increased (+) 1.5% despite the 92.1% tuition rate increase. In relation to salary as a percentage of the total expenses, it has declined (-) 2.8% and financial aid as a total expense package has increased (+) 7.7%. Dr. Rodriguez said that we have been promised a draw-down based upon its performance of 5% every year but if you look at the report over the past three years that draw down has actually been less than 5%--last year it was 4.01%. She did admit that in years past we had some 6% or 7% draw-downs but overall the draw down from the budget over the past ten years has declined (-) 1.84%. She said the reason it has been low is because the former President suggested keeping a favorable bond rating. Dr. Rodriguez added that she is concerned how close the University is to the "benchmark" of \$30,000 tuition. This would impact all Colleges due to accepting less qualified students in order to meet enrollment demands. Fr. Wildes, University President, is interested in decreasing the discount gradually but if we are continuing to look at an annual increase of (+) 7% for entering freshman tuition by the academic year 08-09 we are looking at \$29,900 for tuition, which is pushing the benchmark in only four (4) years. Right now, our discount rate overall is 34% but when you pull out just the undergraduate it is 44%. Dean Stieffel is talking about bringing in 935 freshman next year, which is 85 more than what we were supposed to bring in last year but didn't. This is to make up for the decrease in population during Rev. Bernard P. Knoth's term as President. Dr. Rodriguez made a recommendation to the Senate that we hire an outside consultant to see what we are doing wrong. Dr. Rodriguez said that the purpose of the discount would help increase net revenue for university but in fact it has only increased (+) 1.5% in the past ten (10) years as a percent of the total budget. Dean Scully said that what will be discussed in the next University Budget Committee meeting is the annual raise pool which will probably be 3.25% which was the compromise from last year if they went 2.25% this year it would be increased by 1%. Dr. Nancy Dupont urged the Assembly members to contact their respective Senate Representatives with any input so that it could be expressed on the floor of the Senate and distributed University-wide. As requested by Dr. Stephen Scariano, a copy of the ten year report will be put on file in the library. The Dean expressed his concern that it appears in the past two years there have seen a decrease in the retention rate and that in some quarters academic programs are easy targets; sometimes implications are made that faculty are doing something wrong. The Dean's concern is that as the tuition goes up, students perceive the higher price and view it as an obstacle to pursuing a second, third or fourth year regardless of the discount rate. He said that soon we may be going to a point beyond which our tuition sticker price becomes a "put off" to applicants.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A) Motion: To Increase the Foreign Language for all A&S Students to include proficiency equivalent to a Third Semester of a Foreign Language.

The Modern Foreign Language department has asked the Dean to table this motion.

B) Motion: To Create a Task Force on Academic Advising

Associate Dean Thomas Smith said that he has made some alterations and accepted the friendly amendments from the last meeting. He prefaced that what is behind this is to make room in the spirit of improvement and not an indictment. After no further discussion, the question was called and all were in favor of the motion unanimously.

Therefore, be it moved that the College of Arts and Sciences create an elected task force, with faculty representation from all three divisions and student representation from DSAC, to review ways of fostering, recognizing, and rewarding high-quality faculty advising. The committee will:

- 1. review the literature on best practices in advising and create a plan to implement these practices;*
- 2. recommend to the College Assembly ways of redistributing advising loads among departments;*
- 3. recommend ways of rewarding, through the salary allocation process, excellent faculty advisers who take on more than their share of advisees;*
- 4. recommend ways in which faculty in those departments with few advisees may achieve satisfactory evaluations for that portion of the faculty evaluation procedure;*
- 5. find ways to recognize the value of both mentoring (inspiring students in the discipline) and advising about program requirements;*
- 6. recommend an ongoing process for the assessment of advising in the College.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.