**DRAFT Faculty Assembly Minutes**

**November 1, 2017**

**Secretary: Hugh Sheehy**

Meeting called to order at 1:30

Kirsten Da Silva and Cathy Davey: Da Silva discussed history of the library renovation, stating that Library Renovation Task Force first submitted report in 2015; in 2016, College requested $50 million from state, received $15 million; President created Task Force for advising the renovation going forward. Da Silva stated current design developed by design group that built library at Williams College; the new library will have vastly increased study-and-learning space in form of learning commons; Da Silva discussed some other design features and the process of soliciting input from students and conveyed sense that students are excited about the general renovation. Davey stated that in trying to raise funds that she and others have encountered much enthusiasm about the new library; she anticipates raising the needed funds; sources include past contributors to capital projects at College and some to-be-tapped faculty and former faculty, corporations, alumni, and student families.  Davey talked about aesthetic features of the future library and named certain donors. She stressed that the two most important aspects being considered by Cabinet were how students use the library and the duration of students’ time on campus.

        Discussion: a faculty member asked about cost overruns and construction delays being anticipated and how those are understood in relation to the Williams College library on which the renovation plans are based. Da Silva noted that a librarian familiar with similar projects sat in, in a consultory capacity, on planning meetings for the renovation. President Mercer observed that there will most “inevitably” be delays and unforeseen costs; he noted this is in part due to time used already in assessing the College’s desires for the renovation; he called the renovation “a moving target”.

        A faculty member asked how student needs will be addressed while the renovation takes place; Da Silva stated that a search is currently underway for a “swing space”; she also talked about different kinds of collection management and storage to be utilized in the interim.

        A faculty member noted that there are concerns that some faculty and student preferences seem to be overlooked in the renovation plans, particular those related to a café or banquet facility that might cause disruption in the study areas; Da Silva stated that the café will be small and non-disruptive and asserted that students do want food available in study spaces. Da Silva described the study spaces in the renovation as a mix of traditional quiet study spaces and group “active” study spaces. A faculty member questioned whether an unconventional library organized around group study spaces was desirable or whether it created new anxieties for faculty and students regarding the library’s use.

FA President’s Report: Final Exam Schedule changes and new exam-per-day policy

President Mercer: Padovano Commons will be opened in November 2017; Selection Committee for Provost will be charged soon. The President expressed optimism about the new library; he stated that he appreciates faculty concerns but feels many students are happy about the new kind of library envisioned in the renovation plans. A faculty member noted certain important bodies in the College are not represented on the Search Committee for the new Provost and asked what considerations went into the selection of the committee’s members; Mercer replied that he designed the committee in that would be representational of the entire College as opposed to particular Schools or programs. A faculty member noted that the choice to use a “perspectival basis” as opposed to a “constituency basis” was appreciable but not free of interests related to Schools, programs, and bodies; Mercer responded that all candidates will be available for faculty to question them about important issues in public fora. The Search Committee Chair stated that her primary concern is gathering concerns from faculty across the College to get a sense of what the faculty hopes for from the incoming Provost; the Chair told faculty to expect to hear requests for such information soon.

Voting Items:

1. Philosophy Major

Discussion: A faculty member asked about additional resources required. A faculty member asked about student support; a faculty member responded with a brief discussion of the expectations for growing the major. Two faculty members spoke in favor of approving the major.

Passed 88%-8% with 4% abstaining (104 votes)

1. Sustainability Major

Discussion: Two faculty members asked about practical concerns with completing the major; a faculty member answered both questions and related the envisioned program to the College’s mission. A faculty member inquired whether additional resources will be required. A faculty member asked what School would assess; faculty members from multiple schools are involved. A faculty member asked how this major would be international; a faculty member stated that there is an international focus to many “clusters” within the proposed major. A faculty member discussed an area for growth within the major, should it be accepted. A faculty member asked a pedagogical question; two faculty members answered.

Passed 84%-7%, with 9% abstaininig (101 votes)

1. Program name Change: Crime and Justice Studies

Passed 97%-1%-2% (99 votes)

1. Program Name Change: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Passed 94%-4%-2% (98 votes)

Shared Governance Task Force Preliminary Report Presentation (Ken McMurdy)

        Slides will be posted to FA Website

        Discussion: a faculty member inquired about administration’s input and whether SGTF had consulted with AAUP; faculty members answered that the administration has been involved in the plan so far to the former and in the affirmative to the latter. A faculty member explained that the administration has been involved from the beginning. A faculty member stated that they perceived irony in the element of “administrative buy-in” on shared governance while there exist tensions between the faculty and the administration; a faculty member stated that extant tensions do not nullify long-term interests. President Mercer confirmed that he is awaiting the outcome of the SGTF to decide on whether to establish a College Senate. A faculty member stated that some discontent among the ranks of faculty arises from the administration making decisions inconsistent with Task Force and Committee recommendations; two faculty members acknowledged this issue and stated the Task Force has tried to address this.

        It was requested that faculty plan to attend All College Forum at 1 PM on November 29.

        There will be a Teach-In entitled “Threats to Science/Threats to Human Rights” on Wednesday 11/8 6-930 PM in Friend’s Hall SC 219; 930-Midnight, Discussion and Open Mic; Food Served

FA Adjourned 3:06 PM