




To: College of Arts & Sciences Faculty

From: Leonidas G. Bachas  
Dean 

Subject: Special Faculty Meeting  
Monday, March 23, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at Wesley Gallery

Date: March 27, 2015

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2015 Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting was offered, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**2. Dean's Remarks**

Dean Bachas informed the faculty that the next Faculty Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> due to a lecture on Digital Humanities on April 21st by President Edward Ayers of the University of Richmond. The Dean also reminded the faculty to send their newly published books and artwork to the Dean's Office for display at the Annual Scholarly and Creative Activities recognition event on Tuesday, April 28th. He encouraged faculty to attend this annual event that showcases their hard work throughout the year. The Dean also updated the faculty on his meetings with the Chairs to discuss faculty evaluations and salaries. He asked the faculty to pay attention to students in their classes who sometimes may be experiencing some difficult time, and to refer those students to Ms. Nicole Abramson in the Dean of Students' Office.

**3. Advance Writing and Communications Skills Requirements Proposal**

Senior Associate Dean Maria Galli Stampino presented the proposed Writing and Communication Skills Requirements "Ws" to be submitted to the University Curriculum Committee by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The proposal read that *student will complete three (3) courses marked as writing-intensive ("W") beyond ENG105/106. All courses currently bearing the "W" designation will continue to do so.* A discussion ensued with several faculty voicing that 3 (three) courses are too few. After a long debate a motion to replace the 3 courses with at least 4 courses was voted on and approved by the faculty. A copy of the College's definition of "W" courses was also shared with the faculty.

The proposal will read as follows:

*Students will complete at least four (4) courses marked as writing-intensive ("W") beyond ENG105/106. All courses currently bearing the W designation will continue to do so. Only courses that bear the W designation will be accepted; no substitution or addition will be possible. Departments and programs that offer W-designated courses will assess the writing-related learning outcomes of those courses as part of the assessment described in (2) below. In fall 2011, the College of Arts and Sciences faculty approved a revamped definition of what constitutes a W course, based on best practices from the field of*

*Rhetoric and Composition (found in appendix A). We will use this description in all our W-designated courses and in evaluating new ones as they are considered by the College Curriculum Committee.*

A second item in the proposal regarding the corresponding student learning outcome was also approved by the faculty as stipulated:

*Recognizing the importance of effective writing within one's discipline and the variety of disciplines in the College, all majors will include an explicit Student Learning Outcome related to writing.*

Professor April Mann indicated that the Writing Center, since 2007, has been offering a Summer Writing Institute for faculty. This program provides full-time faculty in the College with tools and strategies to further integrate writing into their courses and to increase student learning. She handed out information for this summer 2015, which will take place on May 12-15 and August 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. She encouraged the faculty to take advantage of this program.

**4. Faculty Senate Report**

Professor Steve Cantrell presented the Faculty Senate Report. He noted that RSMAS was restructured into five academic departments. He talked about the implementation of the "Ws", and also mentioned a bridge that will potentially be built across the lake.

**5. Graduate Certificate in Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (SLAT) Proposal by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**

Professor Andrew Lynch presented the rationale for the proposal, which is a certificate program that existed since 2008. The department is now seeking approval to make this certificate appear on students' transcripts, and to help the graduate students be more marketable. This proposal was unanimously approved.

**6. Use of BGS and CVC Codes**

Senior Associate Dean Stampino introduced a new BGS designator code to help students fulfill their degree requirements. Assistant Director, Ashley Arostequi, of the Office of Civic and Community Engagement, presented the CVC code which is offered to students in the Civic Scholars program. A faculty member will oversee the work of the students. Students will receive credits for their civic and community engagement that the faculty assigned to them. This course will help students fulfill their capstone experience. These codes will be handled by the Dean's Office.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m. was voted and approved.