College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty Assembly
October 25, 2013

Registering Attendance:

ANTHROPOLOGY: F. Crespo, J. Haws, S. Parkhurst, C. Tillquast, J. Zhao
BIOLOGY: C. Corbitt, W. Pearson
CHEMISTRY: R. Buchanan
COMMUNICATION: J. Ferré, A. Futrell, G. Leichty
FINE ARTS: Y.K. Chan, S. Jarosi, S. Massey
HUMANITIES: P. Beattie, L. Cooper, M. Moazzen, N. Polzer, P. Pranke, S. Salamensky
JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION: D. Keeling
PAN-AFRICAN STUDIES: L. Best
PHILOSOPHY: J. Gibson, R. Kimball, A. Kolers
PHYSICS: D. Brown
PSYCHOLOGY: P. DeMarco, S. Meeks
SOCIOLOGY: R. Carini, C. Negrey, H. Taniguchi
THEATRE ARTS: R. Vandenbroucke
URBAN & PUBLIC AFFAIRS: D. Simpson
WOMEN’S & GENDER STUDIES: K. Christopher, D. Heinecken, K. Story, N. Theriot
Professor Byers, Chair, called the Assembly to order.

The minutes of the Assembly of September 20, 2013, were approved as distributed.

The Chair noted with sadness the recent death of Professor George Pack of the Department of Chemistry.

The Chair explained that the proposal for a specialization in Translational Neuroscience within the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies came to the Assembly as an information item not requiring the Assembly’s action. While departments within the College are participants in the program, the degree is awarded through SIGS.

The Chair reviewed the process leading to the presentation of the document before the Assembly, a response to the report on the 21st Century Initiative. He then recognized Professor K’Meyer, who summarized the work of the drafting committee.

Discussion included Professors Heineckcn and Parkhurst. Professor Parkhurst declared his intention to offer an amendment to the document.

The Chair recognized Professor Kolers who proposed to amend the document by adding the following as item #7:

7. The 21C document suffers from a kind of schizophrenia, seeming to endorse the University’s traditional core mission of educational and research excellence, and keeping our students at “the heart of all we do,” while proposing a financial model that militates against these things. The University is not a profit generator, nor are its functions justified by their capacity to generate revenue. Rather, the essential purpose of the University is to create social goods that benefit students, alumni, and the people of the Commonwealth and the world, without seeking to capture those goods for itself. Admittedly, the production of such social goods must occur within financial constraints, and we applaud the 21C initiative’s effort to loosen those constraints in the face of declining state support and a reduced capacity to raise tuition. But the initiative must not be permitted to sacrifice social goods which constitute the nature and purpose of the University on the altar of revenue generation. **Recommendation:** to the extent that any “responsibility-center” approach is to be used, it must be predicated on incentivizing activities that enhance educational quality and the core mission of the University and its Units, not activities that are ancillary to the core mission or degrade educational quality.

Discussion of the proposed amendment included Professors K’Meyer, Ridley, Cooper, Weissbach, Jaffe, and Biberman.
The Chair recognized Professor Yoder who protested the use of the word “schizophrenia” in the context of the amendment. Her statement drew general support.

The Chair recognized Professor Pfeffer, who proposed as a friendly amendment to Professor Kolers’ amendment the deletion of the first two sentences and the word “Rather” in the third sentence. The motion was seconded. The Chair ruled that the amendment was not friendly.

Discussion of Professor Pfeffer’s amendment to the amendment included Professors Gibson, Cooper, and Kolers. Professor Kolers proposed dropping sentence 1 of his amendment rather than sentences 1 and 2. The Chair requested and was given unanimous consent to make this change to Professor Pfeffer’s motion. Hearing no call for further discussion, the Chair put the question and the motion to delete sentence 1 of Professor Kolers’ amendment carried.

Discussion of the motion as amended continued with comments from Professors K’Meyer, Heinecken, and Jaffe.

The Chair recognized Professor Pfeffer, who moved to go into Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Assembly rose from Committee of the Whole at 3:05 and returned to the debate on Professor Kolers’ motion, as amended.

Professor Salamensky moved, seconded by Professor Jarosi, the deletion of the phrase “without seeking to capture those goods for itself” at the end of (new) sentence 2 of the proposed amendment and “Admittedly,” at the beginning of sentence 3. Discussion included Professors Jaffe and Willey.

Hearing no call for further discussion, the chair put the question and declared that the motion to delete had carried. Professor Kolers called for a division of the house. The motion to delete carried, with 39 in favor and 26 opposed.

Professor Jaffe moved to add only the “Recommendation” statement of Professor Kolers’ amendment to the report, including it under section 6 of the chairs’ document. The motion was seconded. Discussion included Professors Kolers, Cooper, and Krebs. The Chair put the question and declared that the motion to substitute had carried. Professor Kolers called for a division of the house. Professor Jaffe’s motion to substitute carried with 42 in favor and 33 opposed.

Discussion resumed on the document as a whole.

Professor Heinecken, seconded by Professor Theriot, moved to amend the report to state that “The timeline must be slowed until a permanent Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences is appointed.” (Placement of the amendment was not specified.) Discussion included Professors Kolers and Cooper.
The Chair noted that the announced time of the Assembly had expired and asked if there was a motion to adjourn until Friday, November 1, for continued discussion. The motion to adjourn until the specified time carried.

[10/28/13]