

Lincoln University of Pennsylvania Faculty Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 1, 2005
Room 141 Ware Center
Ivory V. Nelson, Ph.D., President, Presiding

I. REPORT FROM THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION . . . Mr. Abraham Hoff, Jr., SGA President

Mr. Hoff: I would like to express on the behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA) our appreciation to members of the faculty who actively express concern for the students by asking students how they are, how are conditions in the dorms, and how is the food in the cafeteria. The Talent Show: faculty will be picked at random to participate in the Talent Show. I'm sure that you are all looking forward to the opportunity of participating in the Talent Show. The SGA also asks the faculty to join in wearing orange and blue every Friday to show pride in Lincoln University.

The SGA is also taking some major steps to reform the process of governance. For instance, the Senate passed a measure that requires all SGA officers to maintain a 3.0 grade point average or higher. Also, the SGA constitution is undergoing a revision that is modeled on the U. S. Constitution and will result in improved governance.

II. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . Dr. Ivory Nelson

Dr. Nelson directed the body's attention to the memorandum that outlined ten renovation and new construction projects taking place at Lincoln University between January 2005 and December 2007. The document identified the dollar value of each project as well the architects working on each project. The ten projects have a combined worth of \$98,230,000. When the construction and renovation projects since 2000 are counted, the total money invested into Lincoln University in construction and renovation reaches a total \$132,121,213. Going through this process of so much construction and renovation will cause a certain amount of disruption. Nevertheless, we must be patient with this process because it will end in a transformation of the campus, a new campus.

Dr. Nelson then directed the body's attention to a memorandum on establishing an ad-hoc committee on establishing a reading examination and development of university reading list. Each school and the library will select a representative to serve on the committee.

With regard to the post-tenure review committee, Dr. Nelson asked each school to select a representative to work with the Promotion, Tenure, and Severance Committee.

Dr. Nelson asked the members of the writing committee, the English Department, and department chairs to establish a writing examination and intensive writing courses in each major.

Dr. Nelson also asked that the three schools, the graduate school, and the library each select a representative to establish the criteria for the following faculty awards: *The Henry G. Cornwell Distinguished Teaching Award*, *The Hildrus A. Poindexter Distinguish Research Award*, and *The Sonraya M.Coley Distinguished Service Award*.

III. ACTIONS ITEMS Grant D. Venerable, II, Ph.D., Vice-President for Academic Affairs

A. Approval of Minutes from the January 11, 2005 Meeting. The minutes were approved pending the following corrections: Under Roman numeral one, the minutes should read that Dr. Nelson stated that often "Our students leave Thursday and don't come back until Tuesday" instead of "Our students leave Thursday and don't come back until Friday." The statement attributed to Dr. Chapp that "The WPE policy specifies 500 words" did not sufficiently convey the context of the discussion and other points made by Dr. Chapp in the discussion and thus is stricken.

B. Recommendations from the Nominations Committee.

Dr. Willie Williams: Dr. Williams recommended that Dr. Wagner replace Dr. Dade on the Nominations Committee. The faculty approved Dr. Wagner's nomination.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Policy on Connecting Athletes' Participation in Sports to the Quality of Their Classroom Attendance and Overall Academic Performance

Dr. Abbes Maazaoui: I am not against sports; however, the Student Handbook states that students are excused for University events, but have the responsibility to make up all work. Last semester a soccer playing student was gone most of the semester. I talked with this soccer player and told the player that he had to make a choice between soccer and passing the course. In the end, the student athlete was able to multitask. Where does the responsibility lie? Last semester two soccer players had a GPA of less than 2.00.

Coach Jones: We check to see if students have a 2.00 or above-If not they cannot participate in LU sports. It may have been that the student had a semester GPA under 2.0, rather a cumulative under 2.0. Unlike some big time college sports programs, which often have graduation rates near zero, we do not have sports scholarships.

Dr. Treisner: The Athletic Department has been very good about keeping us informed about student athletes or giving information when requested.

Dr. Safford: There is a form signed by the coach that should go the professors. Some students claim that they have to miss a morning class because of a game at 3:00 PM on campus. We need to ask questions such as is this a "home" or an "away" game?

Dr. DeBoy: All students with less than a 2.00 are identified and the coaches are notified.

Dr. Venerable: For entering freshmen, the GPA might not be immediately apparent.

Dr. Nelson: Nevertheless, the participation rule has not changed. A student with less than a 2.0 cannot play sports.

Dr. Millette: Last Thursday in all my classes, there was only 60% attendance. I found out that on Wednesday night there was step show that lasted until 2:00 or 3:00 AM.

Dr. Nelson: Part of the difficulty we have here is that because of the weather the students have not had a chance to go home. We have had a lot of snow and cold, so the students get claustrophobic being in the dorms all the time.

Dean Briggs: The step show in the cafeteria only lasted until 6:00 PM. If students then have a step show in their rooms, that is another matter.

Dr. Millette: At the school meeting, the president said that the graduation rate had dropped from 48 to 37 percent. We need to spend some time talking about the graduation rate.

Dr. Shabazz: I have raised this issue, within the context of retention, of the students not having a Math Lab where they can be tutored. There is no room for the tutors from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM in Dickey Hall 289.

Dr. Flint: with regard to the 11 percentage point drop in our graduation rate, we need to interview the students to ascertain the reasons for this drop.

Dr. Nelson: There are a couple of things that have happened. More students have had to leave because of financial difficulties. And the grading has gotten tougher since 2000.

V. Announcements

Dr. Leaman announced that Callie Crossley, who won the Emmy for the "Eyes for the Prize" will be at Lincoln University from March 28 to March 31. Ms. Crossley will be available to discuss such topics as media literacy, race and media, women and media, civil rights, and careers and planning.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Donald J. Bradt Faculty Secretary