

Marietta College Faculty Meeting
March 17, 2008
Minutes

A meeting of the Marietta College faculty convened at 5:04 p.m., March 17, 2008 in the Selby Science Center, room 143. Dr. Mark A. Miller, Chair of the Faculty, presided.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2008 were approved as submitted.

Provost's Report

China Trip The Provost reported on her recent trip to China. First, the Provost mentioned that she met with the principal of Beijing Experimental High School and toured the school. She also noted that met with the president of UIR and toured that campus.

Second, the Provost talked about the two days she spent interviewing graduate students who applied to our International Masters in Corporate Media program. She interviewed 13 applicants and recommended to the Communication and Mass Media Department that seven of them be admitted into the program.

Finally, the Provost talked about her visit to the Inner Mongolia University for Science and Technology (IMUST). While there, she met with administrators and signed a memorandum of understanding with IMUST regarding an articulation agreement. This agreement would allow IMUST students to earn a Marietta College degree by spending their first three years at IMUST and then coming to Marietta College to complete their majors.

The Provost was happy to report that IMUST would like 5-6 of our faculty to come to their institution every year for short visits of a week to 10 days. IMUST is willing to pay for these visits. The Provost

emphasized that this would be a great development opportunity for Marietta College faculty and would give IMUST students an idea of how Marietta College faculty conduct classes and what their expectations are.

Retention Dr. Kipp discussed a report she received from Suzanne Walker on fall to spring retention of first-year students. The overall retention rate was 89.6%. Retention for residential learning communities was 96.2%, while retention for non-residential learning communities was 92.4%.

The Provost expressed her concern about freshman to sophomore retention. She pointed out to faculty that they are often the first individuals students will come to and say "I'm not going to be here next year". Dr. Kipp urged colleagues to sit down with students who are considering transferring and discuss why they don't like Marietta College. She believes that personal interventions can be very effective in making students think twice about whether or not they want to leave the College.

Resignations The Provost announced two resignations. Debra Higgins has resigned as Director of the ARC. Matt Young has decided he can no longer be director of the Honors Program since he is also chair of his department. Dr. Kipp is sorry that Matt has to step down because he has made significant improvements to the Honors Program

Teaching with Your Mouth Shut The Provost announced that discussions on the book, "Teaching with Your Mouth Shut", will start March 27 at 4pm in the Fireplace Lounge.

President's Report

Athletics Dr. Scott welcomed Larry Hiser, the new Director of Athletics who came to us from Endicott College in Massachusetts. She remarked that she has been very pleased with what Mr. Hiser has been doing so far. The new athletic director has hired a new football coach, Jeff Filkovski, formerly the offensive coordinator at Heidelberg.

The President talked about the fact that the NCAA is looking at what the future of Division III should be. It is growing at a pace that some think is alarming. This is in part due to the fact that the NAIA is in trouble and its member institutions are looking for a place to go. Growth creates problems in terms of access to championships and in terms of a voice that any one institution has in the NCAA.

There are proposals about to reorganize Division III into parts or into two divisions. The proposal to reorganize into two parts can be dealt with by Division III alone. The two-division proposal must be dealt with by Division III as well as Divisions I and II. This situation has been very controversial, especially in terms of how it affects the Division III brand. NCAA has sent out a questionnaire to all its member institutions. The College has responded to it. Although input regarding the questionnaire was not unanimous among the parties consulted by the President, the College has a pretty clear point of view of what the direction of Division III should be. The President and her advisors definitely agree that there should not be a Division IV. Dr. Scott believes that there is a 90% chance that things will be fine regarding the Division III issue.

Growth of the College The President brought up that the administration is in discussions with the Board of Trustees as to what we need to do if we are to grow. Physically, we do not have anywhere to put more students. We cannot grow right now unless we build new residence halls. The administration is taking a housing proposal to the Board of Trustees in May. Dr. Scott feels that this situation provides the College with the luxury of trying to be more selective in the admissions process. An inability to grow at this point is not an unwelcome problem. But the President also pointed out that an inability to grow can also be a difficult problem because it is tough on the bottom line. You are left with cutting expenses or raising prices. Growth helps the bottom line, but the College cannot afford to do it right now. Growth costs money.

Higher Ground and Vision 2020 Dr. Scott took a few moments to clarify to faculty members the difference between Higher Ground and Vision 2020.

Comprehensive Campaign The current comprehensive campaign is now at \$32 million. The President indicated that the College is on track to meeting the \$50 million goal by 2009. She said the College has raised virtually all the bricks and mortar money. The focus is now on raising money for endowment.

Faculty Council 2008-2010

Nomination forms (Exhibit A) were distributed, completed, and collected for compilation.

Updates

Assessment Update (Dave Freeman)

Dave reported on the results of the faculty survey regarding whether or not AQIP would be suitable for Marietta College. About 1/3 of the faculty responded. 70% of the respondents favored the AQIP process.

Advancement Office Update (Hub Burton)

Mr. Burton reported on the progress of the 175th Anniversary Celebration Committee. He encouraged faculty to check out the committee's web site (<http://www.marietta.edu/175>) and to provide the committee with ideas for the celebration.

Announcements

Mark Miller announced that Dr. Dave Jeffrey and Prof. Jolene Powell have achieved tenure this year.

Bill Bauer announced that the last round of Minigrants are due on Friday, March 21.

John Tynan asked faculty to submit catalog changes as soon as possible.

Dan Monek mentioned that Fine Arts and Literature general education course assessments are due at the end of the semester. He also announced that the next Esbenshade event is tomorrow in McDonough at 7:30 featuring the saxophone ensemble, Prism.

Doug Anderson announced that the Topping-Off Ceremony for the new library will take place tomorrow at noon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

J. Peter Thayer
Secretary of the Faculty