

Revised and Extended Minutes
Faculty Forum
March 1, 2006

Ernie DeZolt called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and made three announcements:

1. There are some additions to the slate of nominees, as well as a new need for two additional faculty members to serve on the Athletics and Enrollment Committee that has been formed recently. David LaGuardia has created a University-wide web management committee chaired by Jerry Sheehan. Faculty will elect one member to sit on this committee.
2. Faculty Forum Executive Committee members have been invited to the Planning Retreat.
3. Faculty Forum Executive Committee will be meeting on Friday March 3, 2006 at 3pm.

Ernie introduced David LaGuardia, who was asked to come answer questions and take comments about the Academic Town Hall Meeting on February 14, 2006. A discussion about that meeting and the presentation ensued.

1. Paul Shick suggested that David LaGuardia's presentation centered on data intended to show that we need to think about reductions in the number of faculty. Paul then countered that other data point toward very different conclusions. Paul's supporting slides were: [David's slide # 11, contrasting enrollment and faculty headcount \(with misleading scales\); David's slide reworked with traditional scales; and a new slide using data from Institutional Research, comparing growth rates for faculty and administrators.](#) (The data show that the number of administrators has grown 2.5 times as fast as the number of faculty over the last 23 years.) David responded by presenting [data from the 28 Jesuit schools comparing percentages of faculty out of the total full-time employees](#), where JCU ranks fifth.
2. Mindy Peden commented that presentation seemed to imply that Faculty were the "problem" and overall expressed not advocacy of the academic unit, but rather critique and alarm.
3. Marc Lynn pointed out that the university's financial problems have been characterized in the past as issues that could be solved by cost-cutting. David's presentation now suggests that the real issue is enrollment. Marc asked why the low enrollment doesn't point to problems in areas other than faculty. David did not address the question. Marc asked about what new revenue streams in support of academic programs have been investigated. David responded that we need endowment money to support positions within departments.
4. Val Flechtner asked about data in support of David's statement that our Academic Advising problem is "not strong." David replied by that he had no data, citing only two anecdotes from meetings with Student Union officers. Val reported on her three years of senior exit interviews, where out of a yearly average of 50 students, only 1 per year rated advising as poor and 5 rated it as fair. The rest rated it good or better, with some extremely enthusiastic about their experience with the program. David suggested that a careful study of the advising program is needed.
5. Mariana Ortega explained the position of faculty as over-worked and lacking in morale, and linked this to the Town Hall presentation. David responded that his plans for his presentation included more positive aspects of faculty work here, but

that these were omitted in the rush. He then said, “I apologize for the fact that faculty misunderstood the presentation.”

6. Paul Lauritzen critiqued the presentation style of the Town Hall presentation, and specifically the poor taste of the opening joke.
7. Anne Kugler explained that the trends cited in the Town Hall presentation by David LaGuardia were misread as something we should be following (or an excuse) whereas the issue of *Liberal Education* that commented on these trends clearly stated that higher education should resist them. David did not address Anne Kugler’s point (echoed by Paul Lauritzen) that the presentation had misconstrued the main thrust of the *Liberal Education* article that he had quoted from at length in his presentation
8. Paul Lauritzen brought up the issue of core reform, which David LaGuardia then asked for feedback on. Some discussion on core reform followed, though there was no clear sense that the faculty wanted to address this issue at the moment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Mindy Peden