

## GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

### FACULTY MEETING

**Thursday, October 16, 2014 12 noon Exploratory Hall, Room 3301**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wu at 12:20. The minutes of the April 22, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

Dr. Wu introduced Dean Agouris who agreed to speak briefly on issues of enrollment, budget and research.

The COS budget cuts for FY 15 are not as severe as originally thought. The budget for FY 16 is not at all clear, although we expect some clarification in the next few months. In the meantime positions for next year cannot go forward until FY 16 is known. Enrollment has become a major issue with possible new budget models potentially moving away from FTE counting to emphasize number of majors, and out-of-state students, both graduate and undergraduate. Research is still at the heart of COS activity although we need to rely on newer ways of seeking external funding, as we are in a very difficult research climate today. The dean then took questions and comments:

- 1 What's the role of the PW campus? How do we increase innovation there? COS expects to provide some support to develop transition from research to productive applications. The Office of Economic Development in central administration will probably be redefined, and we expect to work closely with these folks. If this clarity does not happen, we will take some leadership here.
- 2 When can we hire? We are on hold here. Can't make commitments until FY 16 is cleared up.
- 3 When will you know? When the state tells us, around January possibly. Depends largely on how much growth money we will get.
- 4 Moving toward a budget model that takes into consideration majors is somewhat problematical since students don't always elect a major in time. (Comment from audience)
- 5 Role of graduate programs? We need to increase the visibility of masters programs and certificate programs at the graduate level. Out of state students are critical in this mix, and we are expected to become better here.
- 6 Can we increase the speed of graduate admissions to increase yield? Centralizing at least some parts of graduate admissions is once again on the table. We also need to increase the visibility and branding of our programs. We need to take very seriously our recruitment efforts both undergraduate and graduate.
- 7 STEM majors are not always on career paths. We need to provide alternative pathways working perhaps with other colleges. Early identification here is critical for retention.
- 8 How will the new budget model affect faculty who teach across multiple disciplines? No clear answer yet, as we do not have a new budget model yet.

- 9 Who handles large grant proposals, training grants involving undergraduate and MS level students? Central research had in the past staff who did research development but they don't anymore. Efforts to bring these positions back are critical to successes here.
- 10 Undergraduates with research experience tend to stay as students with us.
- 11 Mason needs to participate in Virginia young scientist programs.
- 12 Does COS have a minimum enrollment figure for courses as other units do? No, not really.

Unfinished business – none

Committee reports:

Curriculum committee: check the cc webpage for information as needed. The registrar seeks to remove courses that have not been taught over the past 8 years.

Executive council: no report

Grievance committee: no report

Nominating committee: no report

P&T committee: no report

Other new business: none

Adjourned at 1 PM

Respectfully submitted

Evans Mandes

Secretary