



UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE RECORD

The September 2006 meetings of the University Faculty will be held on Tuesday, 5 September 2006 and, if needed, on Tuesday, 19 September 2006, beginning at 12:00 p.m. in the Langone Center Forum and running until 12:52 p.m. or the conclusion of business, whichever comes first. Professor Martin Ligare, Chairperson of the Faculty, will preside. If there are any amendments to the April 2006 minutes, please send them to Jamie Hendry, Secretary of the Faculty, in advance of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. **Amendments to April 2006 minutes**
2. **Introductions of New Faculty**
 - Dean of Arts & Sciences Chris Zappe
 - Dean of Engineering Jim Orbison
3. **Announcements and remarks by the Chair of the Faculty**
 - including nominations by Faculty Council (additional nominations will be accepted from the floor)
 - a. **Committee on Instruction: 2-year replacement from Social Sciences**
 - Chris Magee
 - Candice Stefanou
 - b. **Committee on Staff Planning: 1-year replacement from Natural Sciences and Mathematics**
 - Don Dearborn
 - Jack Gallimore
 - c. **Search Committee – Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences**
 - Natural Sciences & Math:**
 - Carl Kirby
 - Ned Ladd
 - Social Sciences:**
 - Carl Milofsky
 - Hilbourne Watson
 - Humanities:**
 - Alice Poust
 - Katie Faull

Untenured:

- Lynn Breyfogle
- Jim Lavine

Engineering:

- Xiannong Meng
- Peter Stryker

(**Note:** The Provost already appointed Warren Abrahamson and John Rickard as co-Chairs of the Dean’s Search Committee. In addition, she appointed Jim Rice as an administrative representative to the committee. Faculty Council will make an additional at-large appointment.)

4. Announcements and remarks by the President

5. Announcements and remarks by the Provost

6. Unfinished business

a. Committee on Instruction

- Composition Council: Tom Solomon
 - 1) Report on Writing Program Review (continued from April 2006) – report available on E-Reserves
 - 2) Report on Assessing Student Writing – report available on E-Reserves

Motion by Committee on Instruction

The Committee on instructions moves *The Faculty approves of the pilot program proposed by the Composition Council. The Composition Council is charged with implementing the program and reporting to COI and the Faculty when initial results are available.*

7. New business

a. Committee on Planning and Budget: Tom Solomon

- Written report available in E-Reserves

b. Committee on Faculty and Academic Personnel: Geoff Schneider

- Written report available in E-Reserves

c. Committee on Honorary Degrees: Greg Krohn

- Written report available in E-Reserves

8. Announcements and remarks by members of the President’s staff

9. Questions for the President

10. Adjournment

ATTACHMENTS
to the Agenda of the September 2006 Faculty Meetings

Committee on Instruction, Report to the Faculty, September 2006

The Report on the Writing Program Review and the Report on Assessing Student Writing are both available on E-Reserves in the folder for Academic Year 2006-2007.

Committee on Planning and Budget, Report to the Faculty, September 2006

FY '06 budget: It is currently expected that the university will have a one-time \$4 million surplus for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. Much of this surplus is due to lower than budgeted expenses for the retiree health care program and to a lower than expected need for contingency funds. These funds are expected to be placed in quasi-endowment to generate additional operating income for the future.

Health care increases for calendar year 2007: The university's overall health care costs for calendar year 2007 are expected to increase about 8.1% above calendar year 2006. While this increase is significant, it is somewhat less than previously forecasted and budgeted for FY 07.

Budgeting for FY '08: CPB has scheduled time this semester to concentrate on the significant budgetary implications of implementing the five course teaching load. It is expected that some combination of new revenue sources generated by the university's upcoming comprehensive campaign, budget re-balancing and expense reductions will be needed to balance the budget while implementing the five course teaching load.

Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee (FAPC), Report to the Faculty, September 2006.

Thanks to the work of Marty Ligare, the Campus Benefits Advisory Group, and Human Resources, the FAPC was able to get benefits information earlier than usual this year. Thus, we are able to give the faculty an early look at what the benefits changes will be during the Open Enrollment period in October. (For those if you who are new to Bucknell, in October, faculty choose the benefit options they want for the next calendar year. You will be receiving more information about your benefits choices in the mail.)

The benefits information this year is somewhat better than expected. Healthcare costs for next year are expected to increase by an average of 10.5%, which is less than anticipated. The cost of the prescription drug plan will actually decline slightly, due to the fact that patents will be expiring on a number of major prescription drugs this coming year. With

the decline in prescription costs, the average net increase in healthcare costs is 8.1%. At this time, it appears there will be no changes in plan design, copays and deductibles. There will, however, be increases in premiums to reflect higher costs. Moreover, the premiums on both Highmark plans will be increasing by about 15%, while the premiums for the Geisinger HMO plan will only increase by about 4%.

In other benefits news, Bucknell will be adding a new, voluntary vision plan for active members of the faculty and staff (paid for by subscribers). An initial review seems to indicate that the plan will be an excellent value. Employees may continue to use the Outlook discount card if they prefer. In addition, voluntary dental rates will not be changing.

Geoff Schneider
Chair, FAPC

Committee on Honorary Degrees, Report to the Faculty, September 2006

After many years of not participating in the awarding of honorary degrees, the faculty voted at its March 2005 meeting to reconstitute the Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees and charged the Committee on Faculty and Academic Personnel to consider changes to the section of the Faculty Handbook pertaining to honorary degrees. At the April 2005 Faculty Meeting, the Personnel Committee proposed changes to section II.C.3 of the Faculty Handbook, which were adopted at the September 2005 Faculty Meeting, and charged the Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees to report back to the faculty in September 2006 with an assessment of the process. This report fulfills that charge.

The adopted procedures require that nominations for honorary degrees “be evaluated by the [Faculty] Committee in consultation with the Trustee Sub-committee on Honorary Degrees. The list of candidates agreed on by both the Committee and the Trustee Sub-committee will be submitted to the President for review. The President’s recommendations from this list will be submitted to the Committee on Educational Policy of the Board of Trustees for its approval and recommendations to the Board.”

After nominations for honorary degrees were received in the fall of 2005, the Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees and the Trustee Sub-committee on Honorary Degrees met on November 17. Many issues were discussed, including the annual timetable, nomination process, criteria for an honorary degree, voting procedures, and the multiyear status of nominees and agreed upon candidates. None of the issues was resolved at this first meeting, and no nominees were evaluated. It was later agreed to have a conference call to consider on an ad hoc basis one nominee of mutual interest to the two committees. This candidate was agreed on by both committees in a conference call meeting on December 14. The candidate, however, was unavailable for Bucknell University’s Commencement in May 2006, so no honorary degree was awarded.

The Faculty and Trustee committees met again in April 2006. At this meeting, agreement was reached concerning several issues:

- Annual timetable. Nominations received by August 15 will be considered at the September and November meetings of the combined committees.
- Nomination process. Nominations require a 1-2 page letter plus biographical information on the nominee. Letters of support and published articles about the nominee will also be accepted. Nominations can remain active for two academic years.
- Criteria. Language in the Faculty Handbook was accepted as criteria: “honorary degrees are awarded in order to recognize individuals whose work exemplifies the qualities of intellect, character, and creativity most cherished by the University. The Committee gives special consideration to those individuals whose distinguished contributions have not yet been widely or formally recognized outside their own fields and to individuals who are part of the Bucknell community.” The Faculty and Academic Personnel Committee report accepted in April 2005 also charged the Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees that “candidates should not be judged ineligible for an honorary degree based on characteristics such as gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation or on their religious or political views.”
- Voting procedures. The adopted procedures require a majority of both committees to approve of a nominee for the nominee’s name to be forwarded to the President, and allow up to eight candidates per year to be agree upon.

The 2006-2007 academic year will be the first during which the agreed upon process will be implemented. The working relationship between the Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees and the Trustee Sub-committee on Honorary Degrees has been constructive and cordial. At this point in time, no further changes to the Faculty Committee’s charge or to the process for granting honorary degrees are necessary.