Faculty Meeting Minutes
4 May 1987
4:15 p.m.
Proctor Upstairs Lounge

President Robison presided. Refreshments were served to herald the coming to a close of another successful undergraduate academic year.

Minutes of the 6 April faculty meeting were approved as circulated.

Administration Committee minutes of 26 March and Programs Abroad Committee minutes of 17 April were accepted as part of the faculty record.

The President praised Wendy Forbes and Mary Lick for their fine contributions to the College. He announced that Mr. Forbes had requested that no minute honoring him be prepared. A minute honoring Miss Lick was submitted for inclusion in the permanent faculty record.

On motion of Dean Emerson, the faculty voted to recommend to the Trustees that students on the circulated lists be awarded a Middlebury degree on 24 May, pending successful completion of their graduation requirements.

President Robison announced the following:

--Sandy Martin has been appointed Henry Norman Hudson Professor of English, effective 1 July 1987.

--John Hunisak has accepted appointment as Christian A. Johnson Professor of Art for a three-year period.

--George Todd has been reappointed Christian A. Johnson Professor of Music for another three years.

--Joining Commencement speaker Barbara Jordan, in receiving Honorary Degrees at May's Commencement will be:

Grace Murray Hopper, USNR (Ret.), widely recognized as a pioneer in the field of computers.

John M. Kirk, '39, former member of the Middlebury College Board of Trustees and longtime supporter of and benefactor to the College.

Lieutenant General William Odom, Director of the National Security Administration and Chief of Central Security Services at Fort Meade, Maryland.

John Williams, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra.

John Minor Wisdom, U.S. Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Fifth Circuit based in New Orleans, Louisiana.

--The GTE Corporation recently awarded Middlebury a grant to support minority students in the sciences. The grant initially will bring twenty high school students to Middlebury for a
two-week workshop with College science faculty. In the second year, four to six of that group summer jobs working in labs with Middlebury faculty. At the same time, a second group of twenty will come for two weeks. In the third year, the students who had worked at Middlebury during the previous summer will return to serve as mentors for newly selected students.

--The first faculty gathering of the next academic year will be on the afternoon of Monday 31 August on the Bread Loaf Campus. The day's activities will end with a picnic for faculty and their families.

--The College has renewed its pledge of support to the Otter Creek Child Care Center for another three-year period.

--Later this week, faculty and staff will receive a memo describing a new benefits option. The President urged everyone to attend program briefings scheduled over the next couple of weeks. The new benefits will become available on 1 June of this year.

The faculty unanimously agreed to waive the rules governing the election of faculty members to the Appeals Council and instead vote for two of three finalists, with the top vote getter being elected to a three-year term and the next highest vote getter elected as a one-year leave replacement for Michael Olinick. As a result of that balloting, Marjorie Lamberti was elected to the three-year term and Murray Dry to the one-year term.

Dean Emerson announced the following:

--All class assignments must be completed by the end of the final exam period.

--All papers, projects and late work must be due no later than Tuesday 19 May.

--Students will not be allowed to remain in their dorm rooms past 19 May.

--Faculty members granting extensions and Incompletes must require that late work be submitted no later than 19 May. Exceptions to this rule...Incompletes which carry over until fall term...must be arranged through the Dean of Students office.

The President referred to the order of business for the remaining agenda items. In the absence of objection, the order noted on the circulated agenda card was followed.

Mr. Davis reintroduced the Educational Council's proposal for the establishment of a freshman winter term program, first presented to the faculty at its March meeting and revised on 25 March. He asked that the faculty approve the program for a probationary three-year period beginning in winter term 1989, after which the Educational Council would be required to review it.
After extended discussion, focusing on staffing and determination of themes over time, the motion was defeated on a paper ballot by a vote of 58 to 34.

While the above ballots were being counted, the President asked for further announcements.

Provost Peterson informed the faculty that all requests for computer equipment should go through Bob Martin, the Director of Academic Computing. He added that the costs of additional computers will not be borne by departmental budgets; at the same time, computers will not permanently belong to a department.

Mr. Martin announced the following:

--BITNET will be in operation by fall term.

--The automated library will be in operation in September. Faculty members and students will have access to these services from telephones in their offices and dorm rooms.

--The College's policy of providing interest free loans for computer purchases for full-time faculty and staff has been extended for another five years.

--Academic computing will begin a computer loan program in fall term.

--A computer room for faculty will be available in fall term.

--Seminars in the use of both Apple and IBM and IBM compatible computers will be run, beginning in fall term. Mr. Martin told the owners of Rainbows that they will not be left in the dust.

Mr. Davis moved the acceptance of the Educational Council's resolution relating to the College Writing Program.

After brief discussion, the proposal was approved by a substantial majority.

Mr. Davis then moved that the faculty approve a joint major in Geography and Northern Studies. This proposal met with unanimous approval.

Mr. Davis moved that the faculty approve new Handbook language relating to Dean's List and Commencement Honors. Discussion focused on the minimum grade requirements for Dean's List and College Scholar and Dean Gleason proposed that the circulated language be amended as follows:

Dean's List: grade point average of 3.1 or higher for students taking four or more courses, with no grade below B-.

College Scholar: grade point average of 3.5 or higher for students taking four or more courses with no grade below B-.
After brief discussion of the effects of the mid-term students' willingness to experiment in new areas, Dean Gleason's amendment was approved by a 2 to 1 margin.

The proposal as amended then was approved by a unanimous vote.

On motion of Mr. Davis, the rules were suspended and the President declared the session a Committee of the Whole for informal discussion of the remaining agenda items.

When regular session resumed, Mr. Davis moved that the third paragraph of the related legislation related to freshman seminars, passed at the March meeting, be amended to include the language underlined below:

Normally, Freshman Seminars may not satisfy departmental major requirements. A department may request permission from the Curriculum Committee to have a Freshman Seminar count as an elective course in a major.

Mr. Olinick expressed concern that there was no indication of what criteria the Curriculum Committee would use in deciding whether to grant permission for a Freshman Seminar to count toward a major. The proposal then was approved by a wide margin.

Mr. Davis then moved to amend the approved legislation relating to Freshman Seminars and Foundations Courses, to include the underlined language and to delete the bracketed language noted below:

SECTION 3: FRESHMAN SEMINARS/paragraph 3:

Freshman Seminars will be classified (either) in one or more of the four divisions--Foreign Languages, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (or in a new inter-divisional category). A student may count a Freshman Seminar in one and only one division.

SECTION 5: CORE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS/item 3.:

Foundations Courses in three of the (five) four divisional categories--Foreign Languages, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Interdivisional), but not including the division in which the student counts (of) the Freshman Seminar. This requirement should normally be completed by the end of the third semester at Middlebury. It must be completed by the end of the fourth semester at Middlebury.

This motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Basu moved that the circulated proposal relating to Freshman Seminars and Freshman Writing Courses be approved. Lengthy discussion followed, focusing on various perceptions of the need for specialized writing courses at Middlebury, and the pros and cons of concentrating training in writing in the freshman year. There was general agreement that to teach students to write well is an important goal at Middlebury. Opinions on the best way to ensure this varied, however.
The question was called, and the faculty voted to suspend discussion and vote on the proposal. A paper ballot was requested, and the motion was defeated by a vote of 44 to 42.

Dean Gleason announced that departmental annual reports are due in his office no later than 15 June.

Dean McCordell referred to leave application guidelines mailed to faculty members this spring, and reminded his colleagues that the deadline for filing intent to apply for a leave in 1988-89 is 15 May. Final leave applications are due in September.

Dean Emerson requested that anyone suspecting a student of plagiarism refer the case to the Judicial Review Board soon. He noted that one plagiarism case has been heard this year to date, in connection with a winter term course.

Mr. Elder reported that the Committee on Conference with the Trustees will meet on 22 May to discuss issues of faculty concern. He asked anyone with suggestions of agenda items be in touch with a Faculty Conference Committee member soon.

Ms. Napier announced that on Wednesday 13 May, FLRP and TRC will host an open meeting to discuss faculty development opportunities at Middlebury.

The President thanked everyone for their contributions over the course of the academic year, and wished them well. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The faculty will meet informally on the Bread Loaf Campus on Monday 31 August 1987.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Blodgett
Secretary of the Faculty