Faculty Meeting
October 1, 1990
Upper Proctor Lounge
4:00 P.M.

President Light presided. Although the meeting was not as well attended as usual, the President called a quorum after there were no objections. Minutes of the 4 September 1990 Faculty Meeting were approved as circulated. Administration Committee minutes of 24 and 29 August 1990 were approved as circulated and entered into the record.

Mr. Clifford announced that he recently received information on the Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities for next year. These fellowships are for college seniors or recent graduates who majored in the Humanities, who wish to start graduate work for a career of teaching or scholarship at a Canadian or United States College or university. The fellowships offer about $12,000 per year in scholarships. The faculty should nominate candidates and send their names to the regional chair in Cornell by 5 November 1990. If the nominees are to be considered, the Mellon foundation will notify them.

On behalf of Faculty Council Mr. Nuovo introduced a motion to increase the size of the Council from 6 to 8 members by adding one tenured and one non-tenured member. Mr. Nuovo expressed the Council’s concern for the lack of continuity in membership noting that the terms of no current member of the Council would continue into the next year.

The Faculty Council moved that the size of the Council be enlarged from six to eight members, that the composition of the Council consist of five tenured and three non-tenured members, and that membership on each of the two committees, the Committee on Conference with the Trustees and the Committee on Finance and Long Range Planning, be increased from three to four. The motion was seconded and followed by discussion noting the positive and negative aspects of increasing the Council’s size. Those opposed to increasing the size of Faculty Council stated that the Council was reduced in size a few years ago in order to cut back on the enormous amount of committee work assigned to faculty members. In addition, there are also advantages to having a small group working solidly together. Those in favor of increasing the Council’s size suggested that this would help alleviate the lack of continuity of membership caused by members going on leave or being assigned to positions, such as the Teaching Resources Committee, that rendered them ineligible to serve on the Council.

There was an alternate motion directing Faculty Council to rewrite the election rules so that those leaving the Council for more than one year would be replaced by an individual elected to serve the full three year term. Mr. Nuovo agreed that this would help alleviate the lack of continuity, but observed that it would achieve continuity into 1991-92. He stated his preference to defeating this motion and introducing it later. The faculty voted to defeat the second motion. The faculty then voted to pass the original motion by a margin of 42 in favor and 22 opposed to the motion.

Mr. Nuovo then moved that the Rules and Procedures of the Faculty be suspended (a two-thirds vote of those present is required) to allow the faculty to proceed at once to elect two new members to the Council, one tenured and one non-tenured, each to serve two year terms. The motion was seconded and followed by brief discussion. Those favoring the motion noted that Faculty Council wished to have the new members elected before the Trustees meeting on 11 to 14 October 1990. The current Rules and Procedures would make this impossible. Those opposed noted that the number of Faculty attending the meeting was lower than usual and that the election to Faculty Council was quite important. The motion was not passed by a two-thirds majority (45 votes in favor and 30 opposed).

There was a second motion to suspend the rules to permit a mail ballot, but this motion was changed after brief discussion of the logistical problems involved. After President Light explained that Faculty Council will begin discussions and deliberations with the Trustees concerning important issues that would again be addressed next spring and later, there was a motion to suspend the rules by holding a preliminary ballot at the meeting to nominate two candidates in each category and to hold the final ballot by mail. This motion was seconded and passed by an overwhelming majority. (As a result of the final ballot, Professors Millier and Rosenberg were elected.)

Mr. Pack reported that Educational Council is meeting once each week and has appointed several sub-committees to work on evaluating the revitalized winter term and to work on educational programs. Educational Council evaluated the Freshman Seminar Program and found it to be a tremendous success. Mr. Pack credited Mr. Davis for his efforts in making this program a success. Mr. Pack introduced a motion to continue the Freshman Seminar Program, as enacted in March 1987, as part of the Middlebury College curriculum. In particular, the Faculty endorses the following propositions: a) all first year students are required to enroll in a Freshman Seminar in their first semester at Middlebury; b) the Freshman Seminars will be writing-intensive courses, as those courses are described in the guidelines distributed to the faculty by the Director of the College Writing Program; and c) the
instructors of Freshman Seminars will serve as the faculty advisers for the students in their seminars until those students declare a major no later than the end of their third semester. The Teaching Resources Committee, under the advisement of the Director of the Freshman Seminar Program, shall annually work to assure the appropriate breadth of divisional representation for the staffing of the Freshman Seminar Program.

Mr. Davis provided a brief history of the Freshman Seminar program which was approved by the faculty three years ago. The program was to be re-evaluated after three years. Although Educational Council originally planned to send the motion to Divisions for discussion, the faculty voted to call the question. The motion was passed by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. Pack introduced a second motion proposing that Freshman Seminars may not be used to satisfy the College distribution requirement. The provision will become effective beginning with students in the Class of 1995. Mr. Pack noted that most of the Freshman Seminars are interdisciplinary in nature and therefore, Divisions are inclined to turn down requests that they satisfy distribution requirements. After brief discussion, the faculty decided to refer this matter to Divisions for discussion.

There was a motion proposing that final Committee on Reappointment (COR) and Council for Senior Faculty Review (CSFR) candidates be required to provide a sentence or two about their philosophy on education at the faculty meeting where final ballots are taken. The motion was seconded and followed by brief discussion. Those opposed to the motion said that it would politicize these elections and that the overall effect would be negative. Several former COR members questioned what a candidate would, could or should say. One faculty member suggested that these procedures would be more appropriate for Educational Council candidates. A motion to table the motion was introduced, seconded and passed by a large majority.

Mr. Nuovo reported that Faculty Council had been asked to consider moving that student evaluation forms be abolished. Faculty Council decided not to take action on this matter. He also reported that the Council planned to present a motion at the November faculty meeting to increase the size of CSFR from two members to three.

Mr. Macey noted that the consideration placed before Faculty Council pertaining to student evaluation forms was his request. He noted that he requested eliminating all student evaluation forms, not just those for the use of COR and CSFR. He introduced a motion to eliminate all student evaluation forms. It was noted that this motion represented new business and would have to be introduced as new business at the November faculty meeting.

Mr. Myers provided a brief report on the activities of the Residential Life Committee. The Committee, which has been meeting weekly for months, will soon produce proposals for the social and cultural life of the residential college.

President Light reported that the College is now searching for a new Director of Admissions. He commended the excellence of the current Director who has been doing outstanding work. The critical aspect of a new director is to recruit top students and to recruit an ample number of excellent students. Dean Emerson provided a brief report about how the College is working on the search and noted that advertisements have been written and letters to other colleges have been drafted. The President said that he will appoint a search committee within the next few days. They hope to start reviewing candidates in December and complete the search by March.

Provost McCandell announced that Ms. Todd wished to express appreciation to the faculty who participated in the recent Parents Weekend. He asked Department Chairs to be certain that, during the next Parents Weekend, all departments are represented at the reception at Kirk Alumnae Center.

President McCandell announced that there will be a brief ceremony and procession on the village green during the inauguration weekend. The Board of Trustees will also be here that weekend. Mr. Leng and Ms. Millier, of the Honorary Degree Committee, will meet with the Trustees to discuss possible Honorary Degree candidates and to decide upon a Commencement speaker. He added that the College relies heavily on recommendations from the faculty.

President Light re-emphasized his view that the inauguration should be a celebration of the institution and not the individual. He remarked that the procession and celebration on the village green reinforce this position.

Dean O’Brien announced that the Faculty Supplement to the Handbook is now available. She instructed the faculty to bring their old Handbooks to the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty in Old Chapel. The old Handbooks will be exchanged for new binders and additional packets containing the Rules and Regulations of the Faculty.

Dean O’Brien also announced that the College Lecture Forum, which has a theme that changes annually, will focus this year on “National Issues in Higher Education”. She said that there would be six lectures, two of which will
be given by Ms. Yu and Mr. Prigo of the Middlebury College faculty. She added that E.D. Hirsch will be giving a lecture on "Cultural Literacy and Multi-Culturalism" next Thursday. The lecture will be followed on Friday by a panel discussion about Hirsch’s philosophy.

Dean Lindholm discussed the incident that occurred last Friday in a dormitory. A junior male attacked and injured a sophomore woman and a freshman man with a knife. The assailant is currently in jail. A memorandum describing the unfortunate incident will soon be circulated to the Middlebury College community. Dean Lindholm stated that drugs and alcohol were not involved in this incident. President Light asked those who heard rumors about the incident to pass them on to Dean Lindholm or Dean Emerson so that the rumors could be curtailed.


President Light announced that the Grants Office has moved to the first floor in Old Chapel.

President Light again noted how delighted he and his wife are to be in Middlebury. He praised the Spirit in Nature Symposium and cited the excellent impact this event had upon Middlebury’s reputation. He also noted the enthusiasm for the College which the parents at the recent Parents Weekend expressed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M. The next meeting will be held on 5 November in Upper Proctor Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Judith N. Nelson
Secretary of the Faculty