

**Meeting of the General Faculty
Fairfield University
October 20, 2006
Minutes of Meeting**

[Approved by the General Faculty on November 17, 2006.]

No votes that allowed proxies were taken at this meeting.

The meeting was called to order just after 3:30 by the Chair of the General Faculty, Professor Don Gibson. The following motion was made, seconded and passed without objection.

**MOTION. To invite Senior Vice President, Billy Weitzer, into today's
General Faculty meeting. MOTION PASSED.**

1. Announcements.

Professor Lisa Newton was called upon and gave the following remembrance of Professor William Francis Carr, S.J. (May 18, 1925 – June 13, 2006), which was followed by a moment of silence.

When I first met Father Carr, in the fall of 1969, I had just emerged from a traumatic divorce and a bitterly hostile academic environment from which I had been thankfully fired (for left-wing organizing). One would hardly have imagined that a radical, left-wing, divorced woman – on a campus that didn't have too many of any of those sorts – would find a welcome from a very traditional Jesuit priest on a traditional Jesuit campus. But the first thing I remember about my new department was Bill Carr's ever-present smile of welcome.

Bill was one of the first people on this campus to teach Applied Ethics, in a Contemporary Moral Problems (Medical Ethics) class that he put together in 1975 for the Nursing School. Within the next few years, he and Father Vincent Burns, S.J., (along with John Barone and a wide selection of other faculty) helped me put together the grant proposals that launched the Program in Applied Ethics. Those of you who were present at the time will recall the reception given the program by the Philosophy Department, which had (then and now) some very strong-minded types who let their feelings be clearly known. Father Carr didn't get angry, he didn't get defensive, he just went on quietly teaching in, and defending, the program until he retired. That took courage.

Bill had never been, by preparation or inclination, oriented toward research or scholarship. That changed, significantly, when he became acquainted with the Hospice movement in the late 1970s. It had started out in England, and was just beginning on these shores; fascinated, Bill took two sabbatical leaves at Georgetown to study it, went to England for a summer to work in the original Hospice, and wrote a serious and informative article on his experiences. Through that article, complementing everything else in his teaching and life, I came to a much greater appreciation of his wisdom.

Welcome, courage, and wisdom are what I will remember best about Bill; his contributions to the life and learning of the Philosophy Department and Fairfield University will not be forgotten. Thank you.

Professor Bill Abbott was called upon and gave the following remembrance of Professor Matthew J. McCarthy (1916-2006), which was followed by a moment of silence.

Matthew J. McCarthy, Professor of History, passed away in September at the age of ninety. Originally from Maine, Matt joined the Fairfield faculty in 1948, the second year after the University opened. He was a veteran of the Second World War; indeed he had been so eager to serve that he had gotten a hernia operation in 1943 so that he could be eligible to fight.

Matt held a Ph.D. from Boston University, at a time when it was rare for Fairfield faculty members to hold doctorates. During those early years at Fairfield, nevertheless, he had to sell insurance in order to supplement his Fairfield University salary. In 1964 he became the first layman to chair his department, which at the time was the Department of History and Politics. As chairman he enjoyed good relations with both his departmental colleagues and with the administration, and was excellent at handling temperamental people. He taught American history as well as the Western Civilization survey, and got along very well with students. He retired in 1986, right after my first year at Fairfield, and I remember him as a friendly and enjoyable colleague. After his retirement he remained active in the community; he was a member of the Gaelic Society in Fairfield, he and his wife Helen came to the Fairfield University retirees dinner just last June.

Matt was a voracious reader; he loved history, religion, and political analysis. A life-long Democrat, he was also a deeply religious man, a traditional (perhaps what we would today call conservative) Catholic, but you would never know it – he was never obtrusive in his views. His was a deeply personal faith, and he was tolerant of other views because of his own clear values. Matt had a wonderful sense of humor; quiet, clever, and dry, and he was the quintessential gentleman: never a bad word about anybody. We will remember him.

Professor Don Greenberg, Chair of the Health Benefits Committee, was granted the floor to make a brief announcement in reference to the letter from President von Arx, S.J., that had been sent to faculty members' homes. Prof. Greenberg reminded the faculty that the Health Benefits Committee had been created in May 2006 by the Academic Council at the request of the Faculty Salary Committee and charged to investigate benefits arrangements and offer updates and make recommendations to appropriate university bodies, including the Budget Committee, the Faculty Salary Committee, the Academic Council and the General Faculty. In addition to Prof. Greenberg, the other members of the Health Benefits Committee are Professors Lang, LeClair and Scheraga. The Health Benefits Committee has been meeting over the summer and offered to meet with the administration over the summer, but they have not yet met with the administration. The first joint meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 23. Prof. Greenberg reminded faculty that health benefits for faculty are described in the Handbook and so changing health benefits for faculty will require a change to the Faculty Handbook.

2. Approval of Minutes of 9/14/2006

The spelling of the names of Prof. Rajamma and Prof. Xu were corrected.

MOTION. [L. Miners/McCarthy] To accept the minutes of 9/14/2006 as corrected.
MOTION PASSED.

3. Amendment to the Faculty Handbook section on non-tenured positions.

Professor Rick DeWitt was called upon to explain this change to the Handbook. Referring to pages 9-10 of the packet for today's (10/20/2006) GF meeting, Prof. DeWitt explained that a subcommittee of the Academic Council (DeWitt, Lang, Snyder) was created because faculty had been appointed as Visiting Instructor which is a position not recognized by the Faculty Handbook. The subcommittee's three recommendations were presented to the Academic Council in May 2006 (see page 9 of the packet for the 10/20/2006 GF meeting). One of the recommendations involves a change to the Handbook and is now before the General Faculty. The change would allow faculty to be hired as Visiting Instructors with criteria as in the Handbook and compensation as in the Memo of Understanding.

MOTION. [DeWitt/Tucker] To amend the Faculty Handbook (tenth edition, 2006) II.A.7 (page 26) by replacing the first sentence in paragraph 4 with the following sentence:

A Visiting Instructor, or a Visiting Professor (who may have any of the three grades), shall come to give full-time service for one or two semesters.

In response to a question on the difference between grades versus ranks, it was pointed out that “grades” are defined in this section of the Handbook and so this language is appropriate to keep in the amendment.

Prof. Gibson pointed out that since this is a change to the Faculty Handbook, it must pass by 2/3 of those present and voting; proxies are not allowed.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Informational Presentation

**The Faculty Link - How you can support the Alcohol Education Initiative at Fairfield
Jeanne DiMuzio, Director, Office of Health and Wellness Education**

Ms. DiMuzio thanked the faculty for this opportunity to provide information on what’s being done on campus to promote alcohol education and how faculty can get involved. She gave an informative and passionate presentation of Fairfield’s Alcohol Education Initiative, providing a comprehensive 5 page handout that included a variety of information on approaches to alcohol education, research, programs, treatment options, policies, a sample survey, and data spanning the last four years. She urged the faculty to understand that in addition to being a life-and-death health issue, drugs and alcohol affect the quality of academics. Faculty and administration should work together to change the alcohol culture because it prevents our students from being able to fully embrace the total educational experience at Fairfield. Ms. DiMuzio invited the faculty to join with her office and get involved in the alcohol education initiative in any way so that our classrooms can become the vibrant and healthy place they should be. We can enable our students to strive for excellence instead of settling for mediocrity. Ms. DiMuzio answered questions from the faculty on: ways we can use the alcohol education initiative as a curricular enhancement in our classes; judicial referrals; availability of services for graduate students; smoking; chewing tobacco; abuse of prescription drugs; various illegal drugs; online betting games and gambling; other addictions and addictive behavior; the level of academic pressure on students; drug rehabilitation programs; alcohol and drug education programs we give to parents; and current support services. When there were no more questions, Prof. Gibson thanked Ms. DiMuzio for her presentation and this was followed by applause.

5. Adjournment

MOTION. To adjourn. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was followed by a gala reception hosted by the Faculty Welfare Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Mulvey

Secretary of the General Faculty

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