

CLOSING REMARKS

John H. Moore, President Pro Tempore

CLAS Faculty Assembly, April 24, 2007

In concluding this Assembly, I wish to emphasize that despite all the time and hard work which our committees have put into these reports, none of it implies any delegation of power or redistribution of money from the higher administration downwards toward ordinary faculty who will be affected by their decisions. At best, with our new Constitution, we have created a structure which facilitates communication between administration and faculty, and allows faculty to participate in decision-making--offering comments, suggestions and criticism. At present, from the standpoint of the College faculty, this is all that is meant by "shared governance." Whether administrators will actually listen to faculty and modify their plans in accordance with faculty opinions, has yet to be determined.

When the CLAS budget crisis began to emerge, about a year ago, it became clear that most of the faculty did not want to challenge the administration's decisions legally or by means of demonstrations and such, but challenge them as colleagues and partners in the operation of the university. We will see if this tactic, which I would characterize as "an appeal to reason," actually works. If the administration is truly willing to operate within the structures we have established, to consult with faculty in establishing priorities for the College and University--before making dramatic and consequential decisions--there will be no need for the faculty to consider any other kinds of actions.