

**Faculty Assembly (FA)  
Minutes of the Meeting  
12-2:05 pm April 20, 2016  
H-101**

**Number of Faculty Attendees: 121**

**1) FA President Rainforth's Report**

- a) Reminder that the timeline for the Gen Ed Implementation committees has been extended into May.
- b) The FAEC is working on a proposal as alternative to having course caps for the Gen Ed categories.
- c) Today's Faculty Forum will discuss the charge for the new GECCo. We hope to conduct a vote by mail ballot, so there would be no need for a May 11 FA meeting.
- d) As a pilot program for next year, the FAEC suggests that units designate "alternate" FAEC reps.

**2) Provost Barnett's Report**

- a) President Mercer cannot attend today's FA as he is at the annual Governing Boards meeting with the Board of Trustees.
- b) Please consider attending the DAC workshop. There will also be other college-wide meetings exploring ways of integrating diversity issues into our curriculum.
- c) Some of the Faculty are still not convinced about the seriousness of not meeting Middle States's demands. A review of Middle States meeting minutes indicate that almost 50% of institutions have some issues with the accreditor. The administration is not trying to use Middle States as a "stick". All other accreditation (e.g., AACSB) depends on being in good stead with our regional accreditor.
- d) There were no questions for the Provost.

**3) Approval of March 23, 2016 Minutes of Meeting**

- a) The minutes were approved without objections.

**4) Vote to Endorse - Experiential Learning Task Force, Presentation by Dean Stephen Rice**

- a) Background. The task force was convened 2.5 years ago and is tied to Goal 1 (Achievement Target 1.1.2) of Ramapo's Strategic

Plan. Specifically, “90% of undergraduate major programs will require students to successfully engage, by the time of graduation, in an extended experiential activity...”

(<http://www.ramapo.edu/president/files/2013/03/Strategic-Plan-2014-2018-Final.pdf>).

- b) For details of the report, see <http://www.ramapo.edu/fa/files/2013/04/Experiential-Learning-Task-Force-Final-Report.pdf>. For example, the report defines experiential learning and specifies that such activities should include 45 hours of student engagement.
- c) Q & A (with Dean Rice and Task Force members)
- Q: Can the 45 hours be pieced together (from different activities)?
- A: The task force would say no. However, the 45 hours includes time for reflection.
- Q: Is the experiential activity requirement attached to a course?
- A: No, it is attached to programs.
- Q: Will experiential activities be assessed?
- A: Yes. Consideration will have to be given to “non-course specific” learning experiences.
- Q: How does the experience learning initiative intersect with “meaningful international experience” initiative?
- A: Study abroad will meet the definition of an experiential activity. Most other international activities will count as well.
- Q: Can programs come up with menus of activities?
- A: Yes.
- Q: Is there a level requirement for studio courses?
- A: Feedback suggests that it should be at an upper level.
- Q: Will language count?
- A: If it meets standards, then perhaps a case can be made.
- Q: If a unit has a curriculum committee, is another committee necessary (for this initiative)?

A: That is up to deans and faculty.

Q: Who will do the assessment?

A: Determined by unit level discussions. Assessment will be at program level, not student level.

d) There were resource concerns expressed by some of the Faculty (e.g., inadequate compensation for independent studies).

5) **Vote to Approve - Sending a faculty member (that is approved by the FA) to the Middle States annual conference with the Provost.**

6) **Vote to Approve – Library Renovations Task Force report, Presentation by Prof. Roark Atkinson**

a) For details of the report, see

<http://www.ramapo.edu/fa/files/2013/04/Faculty-Assembly-Library-Renovation-Task-Force-White-Paper-Final.pdf>.

b) Q & A (with Prof. Atkinson and Task Force members)

Q: What are the fines associated with current code violations?

A: Potentially \$100,000s of fines (see report). Some of these issues could be fixed quickly.

Q: Why not recommend a new library building?

A: We didn't have the hard numbers to estimate costs and we didn't see it as part of our charge.

Q: Why recommend additional printers if sustainability is a concern?

A: There are pedagogical reasons why students may need to print articles and papers (see report).

c) There was a motion to Thank Prof. Atkinson and the task force for this report. The motion (by voice vote) carried with no objections. The word "fantabulous" was used to describe Prof. Atkinson's leadership.

7) **Votes for Items Four, Five, and Six – Paper Ballots (counted by Secretary**

Skowronski and President Rainforth, 4/21/16)

- a) Motion to endorse Experiential Task Force Report.
  - i) Yes = 74, No = 12, Abstain = 15. Motion passed.
- b) Motion to approve sending faculty member to Middle States.
  - i) Yes = 94, No = 3, Abstain = 4. Motion passed.
- c) Motion to approve Library Renovations Task Force Report.
  - i) Yes = 96, No = 1, Abstain = 3. Motion passed.

**8) Old Business – None**

**9) New Business – None**

Meeting Adjourned.

### **Notes from Faculty Forum (re: GECCo charge)**

- 1) Prof. Rainforth clarified that the new GECCo will be responsible for providing holistic oversight of the Gen Ed curriculum AND coordinating assessment of Gen Ed.
- 2) The proposed charge is essentially the current (original) charge with some aspects (mainly regarding the “holistic oversight”) fleshed out.
- 3) Prof. Rainforth described the FAEC’s proposed GECCo membership structure.
- 4) GECCO’s (proposed) charge will be posted on the FA website.
- 5) Feedback from Audience:
  - a) Many feel that the first year of service (during the transition period) should not count toward the two term limit. There are some that would like no term limits at all.
  - b) Many are concerned about lack of compensation for GECCo coordinators.
  - c) There were concerns about lack of anonymity during assessment. Prof. Rainforth reassured the audience that anonymity will be maintained in the new system.
  - d) Is it possible to add a “category group” meeting time to the master calendar?

- e) Perhaps a standard job description for hiring adjuncts (re: Gen Ed courses) can be added to the charge.