

Faculty Assembly (FA)
Minutes of the Meeting
December 2, 2015
1:30-2:15pm
Pavilion 1 and 2
Number of Faculty Attendees: 120
Secretary: Mark Skowronski

1) FA President Rainforth's report

- a) President Rainforth has met with the consultants who were hired to study the college's structural deficit. For details about what was discussed, please refer to the FAEC's meeting minutes.
- b) Some faculty members have expressed interest in placing textbook desk copies on reserve at the library. The library has space to accommodate approximately one third of the courses that have ordered textbooks through the bookstore. Interested faculty should contact the library. If the library receives too many requests, priority will be given to more expensive textbooks.
- c) President Rainforth has revised the meeting calendar for Spring 2016. There will be only two designated convening group meeting time slots on Wednesdays. This now opens up an additional time slot for meetings on Wednesdays.
- d) Final grades for Fall 2015 will be due at 9:00am on Dec. 28.

2) Vote on the proposed Gen Ed program revisions.

- a) A member of the FA made a motion to move up the Gen Ed discussions and vote on today's FA agenda. The motion was seconded. Voting on the motion was conducted by hand raising (no objections) and the motion carried by a wide margin.
- b) Prof. Rakotobe-Joel announced that the ARC committee approves and recommends the proposed Gen Ed program revisions. He, as the chair of ARC, presented a motion to vote on the proposal.
 - a. President Rainforth reported that members of the FAEC (speaking as individual members) commend ARC and the Gen Ed Task Force on their work and fully support the proposal.
 - b. A member of the FA made a motion to delay the vote by a few minutes. The FA parliamentarian ruled that such a motion could not be considered as the FA had already voted to move up the Gen Ed vote on today's agenda.
 - c. The vote was conducted by electronic device (i.e., clickers). Total Votes – 120; Yes-76%; No-19%; Abstain-5%. The motion to accept the proposed Gen Ed revised program was approved.

3) **President Mercer's report**

- a) New Jersey state government has announced capital improvement funding. The first, "GO Bonds", have approximately \$2.8 million (remaining) for four year colleges. The second source is a capital intensive fund of approximately \$148 million (which requires institutions to contribute one third of the carrying cost of the issue). Ramapo will be pursuing both sources with the aim of obtaining funding for library renovations (consistent with the college's master plan). The request will build up from the proposed library renovations to include a learning center and other types of needed campus space. President Mercer agrees that the library renovations are needed. He also indicated that there are discussions about increasing fundraising efforts to achieve this goal.
- b) President Mercer thanked those who attended the Race and Inclusion Town Hall this afternoon. He plans to hold a series of meetings on this topic each semester on an ongoing basis.

4) **Provost Barnett's report**

- a) Middle States has voted to affirm Ramapo's re-accreditation. There were no sanctions. The next re-accreditation visit will occur in 2019-20.
- b) The Race and Inclusion Town Hall is further evidence of Ramapo's leadership when it comes to preparing our students to talk and think about diversity. As a community, we need to think about how we attract and select faculty with a diversity of life experiences.
- c) The Provost will host coffee hour times to talk with units and faculty groups.
- d) Questions/Comments from the FA:
 - a. A member of the FA indicated a need for more discussions about how faculty can bring issues of race into our classrooms. Perhaps these discussions can occur through the FRC and convening groups. Perhaps a stipend program can be created to meet this goal.

5) **Approval of September 20, 2015-Minutes of Meeting**

- a) The minutes were approved without objections.

6) **Candidates for FA President (2016-2018)**

- a) Prof. Tae Kwak gave a five minute presentation in support of his candidacy.
- b) Prof. Emma Rainforth gave a five minute presentation in support of her candidacy.
- c) The election will occur by mail ballot (to be sent to faculty).

7) Motion to approve FA Library Renovations Task Force – Prof. Roark Atkinson

- a) Prof. Atkinson described the need for library renovations funding. The goal of the proposed task force is to make the case for renovations and to facilitate fundraising, using a similar strategy as was used for G wing renovations, . The charge of the proposed task force has been posted to the FA website. Today, the FA is voting to approve this charge.
- b) There were no questions regarding the proposed charge or task force.
- c) The vote was conducted by electronic device (i.e., clickers). Total Votes – 111; Yes-95%; No-4%; Abstain-1%. The motion to accept the charge of the proposed FA Library Renovations Task Force was approved.

Notes from Faculty Forum, 1:00-1:30, Pavilion 1 & 2

Ed Shannon provided an overview of the changes that were made to the GE TF II report which is to be voted on today. Discussion / questions followed.

(Submitted by E. Rainforth)