

Approved December 12, 2007

Executive Council
November 7, 2007
Board Room

Members Present: Eric Karlin, Amruth Kumar, Anita Stellenwerf, Maria Vail, Erin Augis, Marcia Sexton, Steve Rice, Irene Kuchta, Susan Eisner, Jim Morley, Provost Beth Barnett, President Peter Mercer

Members Absent: Lisa Cassidy (Absent due to teaching conflict)

Executive Council meeting 9:00a-9:30a

1. Honoring Our Ancestors Vigil

Executive Council members discussed the Honoring our Ancestors Vigil held on Monday, November 5, 2007, including the lateness of notification, timing of the vigil, and potential disruptions (see also Item #8 below).

2. Variation across the NJ State Colleges and Universities

President Karlin reported on his meeting with faculty leaders from 6 other institutions and the disparity of how state policy is implemented. For example: 1) several institutions assumed external deans were state mandated, 2) deans were not part of promotion decisions at some institutions, 3) some institutions did not have all college tenure committees, 4) there is very little consistency between institutions regarding conducting student evaluations and their use in tenure and promotion decisions, 5) evaluation practices for administrators was not widely implemented. Of the 6 institutions represented, two had faculty assemblies and four had either a faculty or a university senate. It was agreed that faculty leadership from the state institutions should meet at least once per semester.

Action Item: President Karlin will provide a summary of his meeting with faculty leaders as part of the President's Report at today's Faculty Assembly.

Executive Council meeting with President Mercer and Provost Barnett 9:30a-11:00a

1. Funding Guide

The Funding Guide organized by Councilor Cassidy is posted on the Faculty Assembly website. Procedures for applying need streamlining.

Recommendation: Executive Council recommends that the Funding Guide be posted and maintained by the Provost's Office.

Action Item: Provost Barnett agreed to maintain the Funding Guide on the Provost's Office webpage.

2. Parking Update

Councilor Stellenwerf provided an update on ongoing discussion with the parking committee. The number of reserved parking spots still needs to be reviewed.

Action Item: President Mercer and Provost Barnett will meet with Dorothy Echols-Tobe and Pam Bischoff to discuss parking needs and will inform Executive Council of the outcome.

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3. SCI update

President Mercer will briefly talk about the State Commission of Investigation report at today's Faculty Assembly meeting.

4. Progress on increasing funding for scholarship

Provost Barnett informed Executive Council on efforts to increase travel funds, faculty research, and faculty-student research. At this point, funding is from variable sources and not guaranteed for next fiscal year. She also announced the availability of 12 \$1000 stipends for the reformatting of existing courses into online form to be offered in the summer. Discussion ensued about insuring distance learning does not change the character of our residential, classroom-centered college. Scotty Massimo and the TEC will be offering support and workshops for anyone interested in teaching online courses.

5. Principles for funding process for scholarship

President Karlin provided President Mercer and Provost Barnett with the Executive Council's list of Principles for Funding Scholarship at Ramapo College with a target date of implementation beginning in Fall 2008. A brief discussion and explanation of the principles followed. These principles will be shared with the faculty at this afternoon's Faculty Assembly.

6. Variation across the NJ State Colleges and Universities

President Karlin provided a summary of his meeting with other faculty leaders from other New Jersey institutions and the differences across campuses (see also Item #2 above). President Karlin also stressed that faculty leaders may respond as a whole to the Uniform Code of Ethics next semester if no adjustments are made.

7. Berrie Center programming

President Mercer informed Executive Council that public programming at the Berrie Center is still on track for next year. He will also inform the faculty at today's Faculty Assembly.

8. Honoring Our Ancestors Vigil

Continuing the discussion from Item #1 above, members present expressed concern over the short notice announcing the Vigil although no major classroom disruptions have been reported. It was suggested that the event be held during the common lunch period next year. **Action Item:** President Mercer, Provost Barnett, and President Karlin will meet with members of the Black Student Union (BSU) to discuss plans for next year's vigil.

9. General Comments from President Mercer and Provost Barnett

President Mercer reported that the Admissions Office's outreach efforts at local high schools are increasing Ramapo's exposure and generating interest. The budget outlook is still bleak although official estimates will not be available until February 2008 at the earliest. The anticipated deficit will be +/- \$8 million. Efforts to increase revenue were briefly discussed.

Revised and submitted by M. Sexton, November 14, 2007