

Approved March 5, 2008

Executive Council  
Board Room  
February 27, 2008

Members Present: Eric Karlin, Anita Stellenwerf, Marcia Sexton, Steve Rice, Susan Eisner, Lisa Cassidy, Maria Vail, Irene Kuchta, Amruth Kumar, Jim Morley, Provost Beth Barnett, Dorothy Echols-Tobe

Members Absent: Erin Augis, President Peter Mercer (absent due to illness)

Executive Council Meeting 9:00-9:30a

1. Minutes

Minutes from the February 20, 2008, Executive Council meeting were approved with changes.

2. Update from the Board of Trustees meeting

President Karlin and Councilor Rice provided an update from the Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, February 25, 2008. The Board is concerned with the overall budget outlook and a proposed cut in State appropriations for Ramapo. They will create an ad hoc committee to look at fund raising efforts; faculty will be among the members.

3. Task Force on Streamlining Access to Funding Charge

The proposed charge for the Task Force on Streamlining Access to Funding was approved.

**Action Item:** The charge will be presented to President Mercer for his review and action.

4. Voting at Faculty Assembly

President Karlin was approached by Jefferson Sampson, Media Services, on possibly using clickers at Faculty Assembly for votes. Members of Executive Council unanimously agreed not to use them given budgetary realities.

Executive Council Meeting with Provost Barnett 9:30-10:50a

1. Task Force on Streamlining Access to Funding

Executive Council presented the Task Force charge to Provost Barnett and President Mercer (in absentia) for their review. Provost Barnett suggested a Dean's representative be added to the Task Force membership and requested Liz Siecke. The AFT is also creating a Task Force to look at streamlining funding procedures as is their purview. Provost Barnett also informed Executive Council that the Provost's Office has \$40,000 available for faculty/student research that must be encumbered by May 1 and spent by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2008. Deans will establish criteria for allocation of the funding within each school. The Executive Council suggested a return to annual posting of fund allocation (e.g. amount awarded to whom, from what fund, supporting what activity) both for transparency and to broaden faculty knowledge of existing financial support opportunities.

**Action Item:** Executive Council will amend the Task Force membership to include a Dean's representative and present the charge to President Mercer.

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## 2. New Budgeting Process-Dorothy Echols-Tobe, guest

Dorothy Echols-Tobe, Chief Planning Officer, was invited to speak with Executive Council on the new budgeting process including linking planning to the budget and tying the budget to the Strategic Plan. Each program will have 3 year plans corresponding to each unit's 3 year plans that will point to the overall Strategic Plan. Unit plans will be submitted in September as part of the rolling cycle. Ms Echols-Tobe informed Executive Council that budget and planning will be in terms of priority budgeting, strategic budgeting, and inflationary budgeting. Governor Corzine's proposed state budget will reduce state appropriations to Ramapo by \$2.2 million but has committed to funding \$38 million in salary increases. The net budget cut to Ramapo based on this proposal will be about \$1.5 million, however, this will change based on Legislative action. The budget, based on state appropriations and cuts, will not be finalized until later this spring. The annual College budget stands at about \$135 million.

**Action Item:** Ms Echols-Tobe will be invited to speak on the budget and planning process at the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

Provost Barnett informed Executive Council that the deans had discussed the Academic Plan and should be involving faculty in the development of program and unit plans. Assessment of effective use of the budget will be based on fulfillment of the College's mission, annual reports, and the performance appraisal cycle. A related discussion ensued on the effectiveness and efficiencies, or lack thereof, of the overall budget on items ranging from use of student fees to use of physical space. The Provost invited the Executive Council to prepare a list of key faculty concerns and to recommend ways to improve communication within the overall community.

**Action Item:** Executive Council asked that the Provost confirm that the faculty are being involved in planning at the unit level and will develop a list of efficiency concerns from the faculty's perspective and present it to Provost Barnett.

## 3. Discussion Items

Members of Executive Council and Provost Barnett participated in brief discussion on the topics of student engagement in supporting higher education, political activities for students, the American Democracy Project, and getting our students to vote. Additional discussion topics included fundraising efforts, soliciting donations from alumni, and the President's upcoming capital campaign.

**Action Item:** Executive Council will schedule an additional meeting with Provost Barnett, at her invitation, to more fully discuss ways to optimize effectiveness of activities given current budget realities.

## 4. Intellectual life at Ramapo

Members present participated in a general discussion on intellectual life and culture at Ramapo including the topics of student affairs activities, faculty meeting space, intellectual conversations, infusing academic/intellectual culture into campus life, generational transitions, scheduling issues, telecommuting, and improving the quality of intellectual life.

## 5. Provost's Council

Provost Barnett informed Executive Council that the next Provost's Council meeting will be Thursday, February 28, from 10:00a-12:00p in the York Room.

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Executive Council meeting 10:50-11:00a

Agenda for March 5 Executive Council

- Faculty planning initiatives-vision statement
- Standardized testing
- List of inefficiencies/effectiveness concerns
- Review of the Academic Plan
- Convener job descriptions
- Faculty in-service/retreat

Revised by M. Sexton, March 3, 2008