

Approved March 19, 2008

Executive Council  
March 5, 2008  
ASB 230

Members Present: Eric Karlin, Marcia Sexton, Susan Eisner, Maria Vail, Irene Kuchta, Anita Stellenwerf, Lisa Cassidy, Amruth Kumar, Jim Morley

Members Absent: Steve Rice, Erin Augis

1. Governance vote

Ballots are due to the Provost's Office by Friday, March 7, at noon.

**Action Item:** President Karlin will post the results and call for nominations for open Executive Council seats.

2. Provost Council/Constituent Assembly/AFT/Faculty Assembly

Members of Executive Council expressed confusion over the various representative groups in existence and being created including the Provost's Council and the President's Constituent Assembly. There is grave concern that the voice of the faculty could be marginalized.

**Suggestion:** It was suggested that faculty representatives on all the various groups meet together at least one time per semester to review what is being discussed.

**Suggestion:** A retreat for faculty leaders was also suggested to maintain visibility.

3. Faculty In-Service/Retreat

Members participated in a lively discussion on how best to encumber funds available to Faculty Assembly as it can no longer be used to purchase food at meetings. A corollary discussion on faculty in-service also ensued. Suggestions included partnering with the Faculty Resource Center to sponsor a variety of sessions on grant writing, scholarship, team teaching, and pedagogy. Several names were also suggested for speakers. Executive Council has not yet reached consensus on this topic and will continue to discuss it.

4. Effectiveness/efficiencies proposal

Members of Executive Council were reminded that Provost Barnett had invited the Council to present a list of areas of concern in terms of inefficiencies/effectiveness. Councilor Kumar emailed members an initial list of concerns for review and comment.

**Action Item:** Additional concerns may be sent to Councilor Kumar by Friday, March 7, 2008.

5. Standardized Testing

Executive Council discussed the use of standardized tests and questioned how this could affect assessment of General Education. Related discussion included what other New Jersey institutions are doing, in-house/faculty designed standardized tests vs. existing standardized tests, and the status of the search for a Vice Provost for Curriculum and Assessment.

**Action Item:** General Education assessment and the status of the Vice Provost search will be on the agenda for the next meeting with President Mercer and Provost Barnett.

6. Faculty planning initiatives

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Members of Executive Council briefly discussed its vision for the role of faculty at Ramapo College and what faculty should aspire to in terms of strategic planning. Specific categories included teaching, academic excellence, class size, and graduate programs.

**Action Item:** Using the Academic Plan as an outline, Executive Council will formulate an initial faculty strategic plan and present it to Faculty Assembly for their input.

7. Agenda for March 19 meeting with President Mercer and Provost Barnett

- Constituent Assembly and Provost Council as they relate to Executive Council
- Assessment of General Education
- Search for Vice Provost for Curriculum & Assessment: composition of search committee, job description, job reorganization
- Dean selection process: faculty input on selection/recommendation of deans and tenure at time of hire
- Evaluations
- Task Force on Streamlining Access to Funding
- Budget

Submitted by M. Sexton, March 7, 2008