

Approved April 10, 2008

Executive Council
Board Room
April 2, 2008

Members Present: Eric Karlin, Anita Stellenwerf, Irene Kuchta, Steve Rice, Marcia Sexton, Maria Vail, Susan Eisner, Lisa Cassidy, Erin Augis, Amruth Kumar, Provost Beth Barnett

Members Absent: Jim Morley (absent due to jury duty)

Executive Council Meeting 9:00-10:00a

1. Effectiveness/Efficiency Questions

Councilors Rice and Augis presented the second draft of the Questions of Fiscal Efficiency and the Operational Effectiveness at Ramapo College. Members participated in a discussion on further edits including an introductory paragraph.

Action Item: Councilors Vail and Kuchta will present the third draft of the document at the next Executive Council meeting on April 9.

2. In-Service/Retreat

Executive Council discussed the two possible candidates presented as speakers for lunch on May 20, Dr. Ron Gross from Columbia and Dr. Arthur Zanjonc from Amherst.

Action Item: Pending availability of each proposed speaker, Councilor Cassidy will inform Executive Council of any developments.

3. Institutional Effectiveness Committee

There was brief discussion on the proposed Institutional Effectiveness Committee and its purpose. Faculty representation is still needed on the Committee and Executive Council discussed possible candidates.

Suggestion: It was suggested that a list of current committees and task forces be generated.

4. Convener Job Description

Councilors briefly discussed the Convener job description.

Executive Council Meeting with Provost Barnett 10:00a-11:00a

1. Standardized testing and assessment

Members present participated in a discussion on using standardized tests for assessing General Education skills and general knowledge rather than content of individual courses. Questions raised included just what information Middle States does need? How will the data be reviewed and/or used? Although standardized tests can be used at the freshman level to provide baseline data there is concern on how to capture graduating senior data for comparison. If proposed standardized testing is similar to SAT, why can't SATs be used as assessment measure for incoming students?

Action Item: The Chair of the General Education Assessment committee will be invited to speak with Executive Council to discuss assessment and standardized testing.

2. Institutional Effectiveness Committee

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Continuing discussion from Item #3 above, Provost Barnett informed Executive Council that the purpose of the Committee was to evaluate “completion” of the goals and objectives within the Strategic Plan. This is to be a standing committee of the college. Members of the Council expressed concerns with the ratio of faculty representation on the Committee and the workload for the Committee members.

Suggestion: It was again suggested that the Provost’s Office develop a chart of listing all committees and task forces be generated.

3. Minutes of the March 26 Executive Council were approved and will be posted to the webpage.

Submitted by M. Sexton, April 4, 2008