

Approved March 19, 2008

Faculty Assembly
Pavilion
January 23, 2008

Attendance: **AIS:** C. Carreras, L. Cassidy, M. Giacoppe, S. Hangen, T. Kwak, S. Mustafa, A. Padovano, C. Peterson, S. Rice, B. Roy, S. Rubin, N. Santamaria-Laorden, E. Shannon, P. Straile-Costa, J. Teigen, M. Unger; **ASB:** R. Abzug, T. Burns, N. Dahan, S. Eisner, S. Govindauri, E. Haye, J. Hecht, J. Huato, S. Klein,, A. Olbrecht, E. Petkus, L. Ponti, R. Rigoli, M. Sabrin, R. Shea-Van-Fossen, C. Sherman, A. Stellenwerf, A. Vengerov, K. Zeno; **CA:** M. Allison, M. Bautis, B. Bedard, B. Blake, R. Budin, P. Campbell, R. Clark, M. Davis, K. Dolak, M. Gangemi, J. Hollenbach, B. Hughes, S. Jablonsky, P. Keeton, J. Lipkin, L. Lutter, E. Negron, J. Peck, R. Perry, M. Swarts, M. Vail, T. Vandergraw, W. Wada; **CAS:** A. Romano; **LIB:** C. Connors, L. Keller, S. Knight, I. Kuchta, S. Kurzmann, M. Sexton; **SSHS:** E. Abbey, G. Bear, R. Becklen, J. Braun, M. Edelstein, S. Gonsalves, W. Hayes, P. Heinze, H. Horowitz, M. Howenstein, K. Johnson, E. Kaiden, C. Kassem, E. Katic, D. Lewis-Coleman, K. Lorber, A. Lorenz, M. McLaughlin, J. Morley, F. Murphy, L. Perez-Strumolo, M. Poran, C. Reich, F. Shapiro-Skrobe, M. Vides, J. Weiss; **TAS:** P. Anderson, R. Bacon, P. Bagga, A. Brandolini, C. Brisson, L. D'Antonio, D. Dumitru, A. Felix, S. Frees, M. Goldberg-Rugalev, C. Johnson, E. Karlin, A. Kumar, R. Lowell, W. Mitchell, W. Olsen, E. Rainforth, R. Rosty, E. Saiff, R. Shannon, A. Stuart, X. Valderrama, P. Weng, E. Wiener

Approval of the minutes of the November 7, 2007, Faculty Assembly: Approved

Announcements:

- Emma Rainforth and Eric Weiner provided an update on the Climate Commitment and asked interested faculty to attend upcoming organizational meetings. They also announced a Focus the Nation teach-in on January 31 on global warming and the environment.
- Paula Straile-Costa announced the 2nd annual Diversity Convocation would take place on Monday, January 28, from 6p-8p in Friends Hall. Breakout sessions for faculty and students are scheduled before and after Convocation.
- Scotty Massimo announced that the TEC has moved to ASB 020 and been renamed the Instructional Design Center (see handout)
- Lisa Cassidy distributed a survey for the Under 10 caucus

Items from Executive Council Agenda

- New graduate programs
- In-load vs., out of load teaching of graduate courses
- Mentoring
- Personnel processes
- Academic culture
- Student evaluations: forms and how the data is used

Discussion Items

- 1.) Faculty governance structure at Ramapo College

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President Karlin gave a brief explanation of the current governance structure and membership of the Executive Council before opening it up to the floor for comments. Comments included: composition of the Executive Council, communication issues, what other models have been researched (or not), discussion items from the floor, and agendas for Executive Council presented at the beginning of each semester. Other suggestions included: posting agendas before each Executive Council meeting, soliciting agenda items from the faculty, Unit representatives reporting on Executive Council discussions at Unit Councils (no consistency on this), and continuing the current model for another two-year cycle.

It was moved and seconded to continue with the current governance structure for another two-year cycle. An amendment to the motion was made to incorporate suggestions from this and previous Faculty Assembly meetings on improving communication, better representation, and support for the current structure from administration. The motion as amended was tabled until the February Faculty Assembly with the intent that the Executive Council would present a proposal on modifying the current governance structure including amending the By-Laws. Vote: 46 for tabling the motion, 26 to proceed with the motion as amended, 2 abstain
Result: Motion tabled

2) Faculty Lounge/Faculty Commons

President Karlin provided a brief history of the faculty commons as it existed four years ago. Currently there is no designated space for faculty to meet informally. Following comments from the floor there was general agreement that a faculty commons/lounge should be put on the agenda for the Executive Council to pursue.

3) Transportation to the Mahwah Train Station

A lively discussion ensued regarding the need for reliable shuttle service to the Mahwah train station and the need for both morning and evening service. Comments from the floor included: adding stops to either the Suffern, Ramsey 17, or Ramsey Main Street stations, safety concerns, other populations such as students and adjuncts using the service (campus-wide use, not just faculty), accommodating job candidates, and the environmental impact and ties to the Climate Commitment. There was general agreement from the Assembly for the Executive Council to pursue this item.