

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2015

Alumni Lounges, SC 136-137

1130 AM-100 PM

Secretary: Dean Chen

1. FA President Emma Rainforth's report:
 - a. Faculty members are advised to keep the email, sent out by Melissa Van Der Wall, and refer back to it regarding policies toward students who are suspended and who are not supposed to be on campus.
 - b. Reminder: Meeting minutes from FA and FAEC meetings are posted on the FA website for faculty to review.
 - c. FAEC update: FAEC will be meeting with SGA leadership next week (2/25); FAEC has been discussing the interim schedule change for Fall 2015.
 - d. TFAEE report will be voted on in the next FA meeting on March 11, after which the Provost will make a decision on it, and present to the Board of Trustees.
 - e. We also should discuss ways to assess the implementation and impact of the interim schedule change for next academic year.
 - f. FA minutes from 12/10 and 12/17 are approved.

2. President Peter Mercer's report:
 - a. The President is pleased about having great faculty turnout in the FA meetings.
 - b. Trenton has indicated it is about ready to start the negotiations for the various master contracts.
 - c. The President has been talking with many people on campus, including Professor Ed Shannon, College sports teams, fraternities, sororities, residence halls, and DAC, regarding drinking issues on campus. Discussions are ongoing about enhancing our community values and campus safety.
 - d. Consultants (Stafford Associates and former NJ attorney general Ann Milgram) have been retained by the College to look into sexual assault, alcohol, and public safety issues. They will be looking at different aspects but coordinating their work.
 - e. The administration will take steps to meet the concerns expressed by students regarding the schedule change. Although students have legitimate concerns, and the administration will listen and respond to that, the President also advised against being prematurely apprehensive about these changes.
 - f. Susan Eisner expressed the importance of having good communication among the faculty, students, and the administration. All parties should listen attentively to each other's concerns. She also added that the College should be alerted about media/reporters coming to campus and interviewing students without being

cleared by the College. Students said that they were “hounded” by the media last week and the College was not supportive during that occasion.

- g. Faculty re-iterated concerns expressed by students regarding how the interim schedule may impact their working and learning schedules. The President responded that while these are legitimate questions, Ramapo students are, after all, full-time students. Nevertheless, the administration is sensitive to these concerns, and will look into them as the class schedule changes take place.

3. Provost Beth Barnett’s report:

- a. There will be opportunities for training this semester (under the auspices of Title 9) regarding sexual assault prevention. There may also be training sessions regarding drug and alcohol issues.
- b. The Provost will soon send out a memo to all faculty members about making-up for snow day class cancellations.
- c. ARC is looking into online hybrid courses and will report to the Deans’ Council.
- d. There are discussions regarding faculty teaching loads at the graduate level. The Provost will look into that.
- e. The Provost stated that she is happy to meet with the FAEC Shared-Governance Subcommittee to continue the conversations on improving shared-governance.

4. Gen Ed Task Force report (Ed Shannon)

- a. The Gen Ed TF is still working on its report and should have it completed by the end of Spring semester
- b. Updating the FA about the new Gen Ed structure (ARCH) and results from the latest survey to faculty.
- c. Points for clarifications: (1) International Issues and Intercultural North America categories – Ed clarified that the pillars are not being removed, but the survey was asking where/how the associated learning outcomes should occur in the proposed GE structure. These two categories are, as they stand now, problematic because there are too many choices for students. (2) Diversity issue is also being looked into.
- d. From the survey: Faculty suggested more manageable list of choices for keystone courses for better oversight and connectivity to outcomes. Received most feedback regarding First Year Seminar.
- e. Briefly going over the outcomes of the surveys for ARCH: keystone courses, mid-career reflections, experiential learning, senior presentations, and cluster/minor. For details, refer to the PowerPoint that will be posted on the GETF website.
- f. Tentative timeline for Spring 2015
 - i. March 11 FA: present draft of complete GE curriculum

- ii. April 8 FA: present final draft (which incorporates faculty feedback received after the 3/11 FA)
- iii. April/May: present to ARC for approval
- iv. Finalize the structure / outline of the new Gen Ed by the end of Spring semester

5. TFAEE report (Eric Karlin)

- a. Today's TFAEE report is simply a presentation of its recommendations. The rationale for these will be in the report. For today, faculty questions should be limited to clarification about the recommendations rather than how the recommendations came about (for which you can refer to the report). The TFAEE is still fine-tuning its full report which will be ready and posted this Friday (2/20).
- b. Faculty should read the report and communicate their comments, in written form, to the TFAEE through FAEC at faec@ramapo.edu.
- c. All comments should be received by Friday (2/27). Then, the TFAEE will revise and finalize the report, which will then be voted on the FA meeting (3/11). The faculty will vote the entire report through an up-or-down vote. Thus, the report will either be approved or rejected in its entirety.
- d. The TFAEE has done its best to represent the voice of the faculty, but it must also make a report that is best for the College.
- e. Discussed each Charge of TFAEE and Recommendation for each Charge. (See the TFAEE power-points which will be posted on the FA website).
- f. Though not part of the TFAEE Charge, the TF stated "that a 4-credit course model would be the optimum curricular model for both 120 and 128 credit graduation requirements."