

Faculty Assembly (FA)
Minutes of the Meeting
12:00pm – 2:00pm, May 11, 2016
H-101
Number of Faculty Attendees: 104

- 1) Meeting Agenda – Prof. Rainforth**
 - a) Class Schedule Re-Vote
 - b) Rigor Report
 - c) GECCo charge
 - d) Faculty Forum – GECCo meet and greet

- 2) President Mercer’s Report**
 - a) The Governor’s Office has received recommendations for funding allocations (re: bond issue). We are not sure what level of funding Ramapo will receive for the library project.
 - b) President Mercer is looking forward to seeing as many faculty as possible at commencement tomorrow.
 - c) Discussion
 - a. Question: Is the College doing adequate water testing (what is in our water)?
 - b. President Mercer: Last time the system was tested was three or four years ago. President Mercer will look into whether there is a need for new testing.

- 3) Approval of April 20, 2016 Minutes of Meeting**
 - a) The minutes were approved without objections.

- 4) Vote to Endorse *Class Schedule Task Force’s Proposed Schedule Modification***
 - a) Summary of Changes – Prof. Kwak: Proposed schedule has a 75 minute common hour. Breaks between classes are 15 minutes. There is a new option for 8am classes. Unlike the schedule approved in March, the “Monday, Wednesday, Thursday” spot will be same as currently exists.
 - b) Discussion
 - a. Teacher’s Ed faculty recommend voting down this proposal. The proposed schedule makes student teaching difficult to schedule. The difficulties are the result of the extended common hour.

- b. Some faculty members would like to see classes start on the hour (not :55).
- c) There are concerns that hybrid courses are being used as a way to endorse this schedule change.
- d) The FA thanks the task force for their work on the class schedule.
- e) Vote – Yes 70%, no 21%, abstain 9%.

5) Vote to Endorse *Academic Rigor and Grading Task Force's Report*

- a) Presentation by Prof. Christian Reich and Prof. Gordon Bear (see task force report). Core recommendation – there should be bottom-up discussions about academic rigor throughout the College. Students and faculty should understand what rigor is. The task force is calling for a “discussion with transparency” about possible grade inflation at Ramapo.
- b) Discussion
 - a. Comment from audience: When other colleges have implemented “average grade” or “forced distribution” policies to deal with grade inflation, such policies often fail (as they put students at a competitive disadvantage to those from other schools).
- c) Vote – Yes 87%, no 7%, abstain 7%.

6) Vote to Approve New GECCo Charge.

- a) Prof. Rainforth provided a concise overview of the charge (see document on FA website).
- b) Discussion.
 - a. There was a debate about whether Unit representation on GECCo should be limited to a maximum of three coordinators or three or four members overall. As GECCo is a standing committee, this issue (along with how GECCo reps are elected, per the Charge document) can be revisited next year.
- c) Vote – Yes 54%, no 35%, abstain 9%.

7) Provost Barnett's Report

- a) In keeping with the College's Strategic Plan for Comprehensive Internationalization, next year the College will focus on Sub-Saharan Africa.
- b) The ASB Dean search continues. Phone interviews of candidates will likely occur by the end of this month.
- c) There will be no classes on Memorial Day during Summer I.
- d) In Fall 2016, classes will meet the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. This day will be scheduled as a Friday.

- 8) Prof. Kwak thanks Prof. Rainforth for her service as FA President.**
- 9) Old Business – None**
- 10) New Business – Prof. Rainforth thanks the members of the FAEC for their service this year, and Christina Connor for running the clicker system at each FA.**