

Faculty Assembly (FA) Minutes of the Meeting
November 9, 2016
12:30pm – 2:00pm
Pavilion Rooms 2 & 3
Number of Faculty Attendees: (approximately) 91

- 1) **Approval of September 7, 2016 Minutes of the Meeting.**
 - a. The minutes were approved without objections.

- 2) **Approval of October 5, 2016 Minutes of the Meeting.**
 - a. The minutes were approved without objections.

- 3) **Presentation by Jaime Velazquez (Student Government Association)**
 - a. Ramapo's Student Government Association (SGA) is exploring support systems for homeless/food insecure students. The SGA passed legislation to convene an Emergency Student Relief Committee, with the expectation that this will be a campus-wide committee that organizes resources and raises funds (e.g., food drives). Currently, the committee is seeking faculty input and volunteers to participate in a National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week event from 1-2pm on November 17 (contact Jaime Velazquez at jvelazq3@ramapo.edu for details).
 - b. Prof. Kwak indicated that the FA may eventually discuss donating a portion of the FA's morale fund to this cause.

- 4) **FA President Tae Kwak's Report.**
 - a. The Provost is amenable to providing written feedback to all FA task force and committee reports (as long as such reports have actionable items in their conclusions).
 - b. Prof. Kwak and the Provost are drafting charges for two task forces:
 - i. Shared Governance
 - ii. Online Education.

- 5) **Provost Beth Barnett's Report.**
 - a. The College has dedicated new space for veteran/transfer students.
 - b. President Mercer is unable to attend today's meeting as he is participating in a *Middle States'* visit of another institution.
 - c. The College needs to have a discussion about where we are going with online learning (hence the task force that is currently being charged with Prof. Kwak).
 - d. We also are charging a task force to discuss shared governance.
 - e. Audience Questions.
 - i. Would it be possible to have the summer schedule rolled out with fall and spring (so faculty can advise students effectively)?
 1. Provost: We should be scheduling courses a year in advance. There have been some hiccups this year.

- ii. Can the Faculty be notified when incidents of violence occur on campus?
 - 1. Provost: The College is required by law to alert the Ramapo community to violent incidents (the “Alert Me Now” system is the mechanism that is used). However, not all incidents that are rumored to be violent acts turn out to be violent acts after investigation.
- iii. What is the College’s vision for expanding programs?
 - 1. Provost: We want to attract more applicants (as demographic changes will continue to be a challenge). We want programs that students are seeing and hearing about (e.g., programs that are fashionable and in demand).
- iv. Is the fluctuation in enrollment numbers concerning?
 - 1. Provost: We are actually exceeding our peers in terms of enrollment. However, there may be challenges ahead. It is a volatile market. The potential of community colleges offering three years of undergraduate education may be particularly challenging for institutions like ours.

6) ARC Proposals – ARC Chair Stephen Anderson.

- a. Prof. Anderson discussed the ARC committee’s recommendation to accept the proposal for an Elementary Education major.
 - i. The vote was conducted by electronic device (i.e., clickers). Total votes = 91; Yes = 89%; No = 5%; Abstain = 5%. The motion to approve the **proposed Elementary Education major passed.**
- b. Prof. Anderson discussed the ARC committee’s recommendation to accept the proposal for a MBA (with an Accounting concentration).
 - i. The vote was conducted by electronic device (i.e., clickers). Total votes = 91; Yes = 87%; No = 5%; Abstain = 8%. The motion to approve the **proposed MBA (with an Accounting concentration) passed.**
- c. Prof. Anderson discussed the ARC committee’s recommendation to accept the proposal for a Contemplative Studies minor.
 - i. The vote was conducted by electronic device (i.e., clickers). Total votes = 91; Yes = 57%; No = 31%; Abstain = 12%. The motion to approve the **proposed Contemplative Studies minor passed.**

7) Gen Ed Update – Sangha Padhy (GECCo) and Stephen Anderson (ARC).

- a. Prof. Padhy (GECCo) - We have primarily focused on core courses (and all core courses have been approved). We have given some minor deadline extensions to those submitting lab courses. GECCo can probably get through all of the applications other than those for courses in the Global Awareness and Scientific

Reasoning categories. GECCo is working really hard; however, we feel that we need more time.

- b. Prof. Anderson (ARC) - Nine courses have been approved so far. ARC has had approximately 80 applications.
- c. Audience Comments.
 - i. Many are concerned that the deadline is insurmountable and is getting in the way of allowing GECCo and ARC to function effectively. Other GECCo members (in the FA audience) expressed their concern that the original timeline is not realistic.
 - ii. Several audience members questioned the need to have Global Awareness category courses approved this fall. They feel that such a requirement is unnecessary.
 - iii. Prof. Kwak reiterated his concerns about the current timeline.
 - iv. Provost: We do not need to approve every course that will eventually comprise each category. If we have 5-10 courses per category, that will be sufficient for now. If a course requires extra reflection time (in terms of approval), GECCo may want to move it to the bottom of the list.

8) Other Announcements.

- a. Ramapo Theater program – “Of Mice and Men” – (Nov. 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 at 8 p.m. – Barrie Center).