

**Faculty Assembly (FA) Minutes of the Meeting**  
**September 7, 2016**  
**12:00pm – 2:00pm**  
**Pavilion Rooms 2 & 3**  
**Number of Faculty Attendees: (approximately) 75**

**1) New Faculty Introductions**

**2) Approval of May 11, 2016 Minutes of the Meeting**

- a) The minutes were approved without objections.

**3) President Tae Kwak's Report**

- a) The meeting calendar is posted online. After the first two, all subsequent FA meetings are scheduled to start at 12pm for AY 2016-17. Faculty Forum will precede FA meetings, and only faculty will attend the Faculty Forum. The Faculty Assembly will have its traditional audience.
- b) Over the summer, program home pages were changed without consultation with convening groups. The content of some program pages has been lost. Convening groups should address this issue ASAP.
- c) There have been issues migrating to Gmail. Please ensure that you are using g.ramapo.edu for Ramapo email access.

**4) Key Concerns for AY 2016-17.**

- a) Shared Governance (Prof. Ken McMurdy, TAS)
  - i) Over the last few years, the FA's Shared Governance Subcommittee has developed a working definition of shared governance and used this model to assess the practice at Ramapo College. The subcommittee would like to develop a "constitution-like" document, accepted by both faculty and the administration, that outlines the exercise of shared governance. AAUP is organizing a shared governance conference this year that Prof. McMurdy and others will attend. Prof. Tae Kwak expressed his desire to have a shared definition of shared governance that can be posted on the College's website.
- b) Library Renovations (Prof. Roark Atkinson, SSHGS)
  - i) The FA's Library Renovations Task Force presented its report to the Board of Trustees. President Mercer is organizing his own task force on library renovations. Fifteen million dollars were approved by the State for renovations, an amount that is just barely enough (based on estimates) to remedy the library's mold issues.
  - ii) Money may only be used to repair the library's physical structure (e.g., may not be used to purchase software).
- c) Diversity Initiatives (Prof. Pinar Kayaalp, SSHGS)
  - i) The College has announced the creation of its first executive-level position for diversity (i.e., the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Compliance).
- d) Gen Ed Implementation

- i) Prof. Kwak announced the administration's proposal to delay ARC review of distribution category courses until next semester.
- ii) GECCO chair Sanghamitra Padhy (SSHS) announced that GECCO will be finalizing outcomes and checklists in the next few weeks.
- iii) Discussion
  - (1) Many faculty members feel that the administration is unnecessarily rushing the implementation of the Gen Ed program. This may adversely affect program quality, create scheduling difficulties, and leave insufficient time to provide students with an adequate number of courses in each category. There are also concerns that such decisions are being forced upon the faculty in a top-down manner (i.e., faculty should own the curriculum). Many feel that there are ways of complying with *Middle States'* requirements without rushing the implementation of the Gen Ed program. One faculty member suggested that VP Eric Daffron be consulted about the type of assessment data needed for *Middle States*.
  - (2) The Provost reminded the faculty of the need for sufficient assessment data.

#### **5) Other Announcements**

- a) Prof. Kwak informed the FA that Dr. Eric Daffron will be stepping down from the Vice Provost position at the end of AY 2016-17.