

Faculty Assembly (FA) Minutes of the Meeting
December 7, 2016
12:30pm – 1:45pm
Pavilion Rooms 2 & 3
Number of Faculty Attendees: (approximately) 90

- 1) **Approval of November 9, 2016 Minutes of the Meeting.**
 - a) The minutes were approved without objections.

- 2) **Provost Beth Barnett's Report**
 - a) Ramapo faculty are working on developing a data analytics (interdisciplinary) major. If other faculty are interested in joining this effort, please let the Provost know. There will be a meeting at 3pm next Wednesday.
 - b) The Shared Governance Task Force (see FA Minutes from November 2016) will be drafting a definition of shared governance for Ramapo. This committee will comprise approximately five administrators, five faculty members, and perhaps a student representative (e.g., SGA president).
 - c) The Provost will be attending *Middle States'* annual conference in Philadelphia from 12/7-12/9.
 - d) Audience Questions:
 - i) Will a faculty member be going with the Provost to the *Middle States'* conference today?
 - (1) No, the Provost did not receive notice of any faculty interest in attending this conference.

- 3) **FA President Tae Kwak's Report.**
 - a) Please initial the attendance sheets at the back of the room. Attendance will be taken at FA meetings. However, this information will only be reviewed by the FAEC, and will not be shared with the administration nor used for personnel purposes.
 - b) We are seeking faculty nominees for the Online Learning Task Force. Please nominate individuals at next week's Unit Council.
 - c) Grades are due at 9am on December 29.

- 4) **Gen Ed Distribution Courses – Prof. Stephen Anderson (ARC Chair).**
 - a) Applications for distribution courses are due next semester. Although a specific deadline has yet to be set, it will be sometime in March (likely after Spring Break). The checklists will be published in March before the deadline. Also, we will offer a workshop (probably).
 - b) Audience Questions:
 - i) Can we get the checklists earlier than March?
 - (1) Unsure.

- 5) **Ramapo's DACA Students.**

- a) Profs. Todd Barnes and Erick Castellanos (SSHGS) discussed the potential impact of the election on Ramapo's DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students.
Approximately [redacted] students at Ramapo are beneficiaries of this program. As this program, created by executive action, may change (or be terminated) with a new President, we might want to proactively identify ways to protect these students. We may have to develop specific programs for this population.
- b) More than 500 College Presidents, including the President of Ramapo College, have signed a statement calling on the federal government to preserve DACA.
- c) Sanctuary Campus movement.
 - i) A number of Colleges and Universities (and municipalities) have pledged to limit their cooperation with the federal government's immigration enforcement activities. Such institutions typically prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement from entering campus properties without a warrant (except in exigent circumstances) and protect student records from being accessed by federal agencies (re: immigration). AFT has announced that it will support efforts to create sanctuary campuses. Would Ramapo be interested in becoming a sanctuary campus?
 - ii) Audience Comments:
 - (1) We need some clarity about who can decide such matters. Usually, it is a College's Board of Trustees that sets such a policy.
 - (2) Perhaps we should make arrangements with a local church for our DACA students to have a safe living space in the event that DACA is revoked.

6) Campus Climate Initiative.

- a) Prof. Ed Shannon (SSHGS) and Cristina Connor (Library) discussed a potential poster program for improving campus climate. Specifically, they propose that Ramapo create a series of posters across campus, to be displayed in glass cases, reaffirming the College's values. Each poster could have a theme linking Ramapo to the broader community. For example, one poster might pair Ramapo's value statements with the language of Title IX (i.e., the poster would show how our values are in step with those affirmed in Title IX). Another poster might pair Ramapo's value statements with the language of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ultimately, posters would be developed collaboratively with students (perhaps in the Gen Ed curriculum).
- b) Audience Comments:
 - i) Ramapo has published a new statement of values.
 - ii) We need to strike a balance between a marketing campaign and something that comes from the students themselves.

7) Campus Sustainability.

- a) Prof. Ashwani Vashishth (TAS) expressed the President's Committee on Campus Sustainability's (PCCS) desire to increase recycling on campus. All recyclables (except for

food contaminated items) can go into the blue recyclables bins that are in classrooms and offices. Please let students know.

- b) There are also special bins on campus to collect electronic recyclables (today and tomorrow).

8) Other Announcements.

- a) The International Risk Assessment Committee (IRAC) is compiling a database of faculty expertise.
- b) The Mindful Fellows Programs will be starting again (new cycle).
- c) The Board of Trustees will be meeting next Monday. AFT would like members to attend wearing their AFT t-shirts (to remind the Board that we continue to lack a contract).
- d) Some faculty are concerned that *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities* is using the *Daily Digest* for advertising (e.g., Daily Digest from Dec. 2).

DRAFT