

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2011, 9:15 to 11 am

Present: Jim Morley, Elaine Risch, Donna Crawley, Max Goldberg, Peggy Greene, Jillian Weiss, Sam Mustafa, Alex Olbrecht, Ruma Sen

Secretary: Rebecca Root

1. Motion to approve the minutes for the November 16 and November 30 meetings of the FAEC. Seconded and approved. Rep. Weiss abstained from the approval of these minutes.

2. Review of November 30 FA meeting and proposed motion to be considered by FA today.

3. Meeting with the faculty member who has proposed a motion that will be brought before today's FA. 9:30-9:45am

The faculty member requested that Rep. Weiss leave the meeting. Pres. Morley denied this request.

The faculty member explained the rationale behind the proposed motion, namely to address the financial viability of the college and the need for reliable, accessible data pertinent to questions like program review, tenure caps, etc.

Discussion of procedure clarified that first there would need to be a vote on whether to make the proposed motion a decision item; then, if two thirds of votes are in favor of doing so, discussion of the motion would conclude with a vote on the motion. That vote would require a majority of votes cast to pass.

4. Further deliberation on the proposed motion.

Discussion of the impact of the timing of this resolution, and whether sufficient budget and audit information is already collected, reviewed by the administration, and made available to faculty. Also discussed whether questions on the budget should be given to President Mercer in writing or raised in today's meeting.

Action: Consensus was reached in favor of telling President Mercer (today, during FAEC's meeting with him) that faculty have raised concerns and questions about the budget. We will request that he respond to these written questions with written answers.

5. Meeting with Prof. Anita Stellenwerf (FA representative to the Board of Trustees Audit Committee). 10-10:15am

The college and Foundation have an external audit every year, and those statements are on the college website. However, these audits do not break down operational costs of individual programs or units. In her opinion, there is nothing in these audits to date that

raises immediate alarm about the financial health of the college, but a definitive answer would require greater scrutiny by an expert in non-profit auditing. Her impression was that most financial information the faculty want is already available.

6. Preparation for today's 12:30-1:30pm meeting with President Mercer.

Copies of the questions submitted by CA, a group of untenured faculty, and one faculty member from SSHS were distributed. Secretary Root noted that the questions from the untenured faculty members were part of a letter to the FAEC (distributed to the members of FAEC by email and hard copy), requesting a response. President Morley emailed his own response to that group last night.

After discussion, consensus was reached in favor of asking President Mercer the following questions:

- a. 1. What are you planning on proposing to the Board of Trustees regarding the tenure cap? Is the plan to eliminate the cap or something else? Follow up: If the the plan is not to eliminate them, then can you tell us how many untenured faculty will be facing non-reappointment in each of the next few years?
- b. The lack of attention given to Liberal arts in official documents produced by the administration (the strategic plan, in the new advertising campaign, state of the college addresses) coupled with the recent attempt to suspend the American Studies major and the denial of tenure to a member of the Spanish faculty leaves the impression that the administration has chosen not to address the Middle States critique. How do you respond to this interpretation of your administration's actions?
- c. When can we expect to get accurate data about cost effectiveness of academic program, and from whom will we receive it? You and Provost Barnett were not satisfied with the current data, and we understand that delivery of that data is the first step before we begin discussions of programmatic review.
- d. Is there currently a policy stating that 25% of courses should be taught by adjuncts? If so, where is that policy? Such a policy is contrary to the college's commitment to reducing the adjunct ratio not too long ago. What should the college be aiming for – more adjunct faculty to reduce costs or a greater commitment to quality education?
- e. Faculty have expressed a number of concerns and we would like to consolidate and refine that list of questions and give them to you by February in the hopes that you will then provide written answers. Would you be willing to do so?

7. Final preparation for today's FA.

Meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee begin this month, so the election of the all-college representative to the committee must be moved up.

Action: Pres. Morley will announce at today's FA that nominees for the seat should be sent to Secretary Root by next Wednesday (December 14), after which an election will be conducted via a Qualtrics survey sent out by Rep. Weiss.

Discussed whether to hold a Faculty Conference Day in January. Pres. Morley suggests Martha Nussbaum's new book on the humanities as a possible topic.

Action: Pres. Morley will find a date during the spring semester for this, and will announce this at FA.

Action: Rep. Sen will serve as parliamentarian for today's FA, as Rep. Olbrecht will not be in attendance.

8. New Business

Rep. Sen is resigning from her position as FAEC Representative for CA. Her replacement, Beba Shamash, has been elected by CA and will step in for spring. Rep. Sen's service is greatly appreciated.