

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting
September 7, 2011

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

Absent: Jillian Weiss

Secretary: Rebecca Root

Meeting began at 9:30am. Note that, in future, meetings will begin at 9:15am.

1. Minutes for meeting of August 31, 2011 approved as amended.
2. FAEC agenda for 2011-2012
 - a. Jill's list of action-items for FAEC from last year was circulated in advance of this meeting and is used as the basis for discussion of which goals should become priorities for this academic year.
 - b. Besides goals from last year, President Mercer has asked for input on the strategic plan, so this too is a priority.
 - c. After some discussion, and reflecting consensus that it is important to identify "do-able" goals and to refine these in future meetings, the following agenda items are established:
 - i. Updating documents
 - ii. Online course evaluations
 - iii. Online courses (especially examining pedagogical standards)
 - iv. Clarification of FAEC's role in shared collegial governance
 - v. Tenure/promotion issues (clarification of/response to new NJ law on residency requirement, reducing paperwork in the packets submitted by faculty)
 - d. Other issues that are a possibility or that will remain on the "back burner" are:
 - i. Academic calendar (length of winter break, addressing possibility of adding other teaching days, such as MWF or TTh).

- ii. Establishment of an Academic Commons for faculty use (perhaps in the carriage house)

3. Responses to the two strategic plan questions posed by President Mercer.

a. Most important future challenges to higher education? Ideas discussed:

- i. Technology and defining the role of faculty and colleges when so much material is available online. Need to articulate what college offers given the tech and what is essential in terms of teaching/learning. Also, how to integrate technology and new pedagogical techniques.
- ii. How to remain competitive and attract/retain quality teachers and researchers given the reality of international competition, tighter budgets, and new residency requirement.
- iii. Impact of financial pressures on students, including high college debt and an increasingly commuter population.
- iv. Broader question of financial survival of colleges. With less public funding, will public colleges have to engage in fund raising in ways that lead them to behave more like private institutions?

b. How can the faculty best be involved in the strategic plan process?

- i. Jim Will raise this at FA to encourage discussion.
- ii. As well as faculty giving input, they should receive feedback from administrators on the reports generated in the process. We should remember last year's mantra about not having committees to nowhere, but rather closing the loop and having a back-and-forth between the administration, committees, and FA.
- iii. We need to determine in what way faculty involvement matter, and how faculty participation will be decided-upon and instrumental. In part, these are questions to pose to President Mercer.

4. Next FA meeting agenda.

a. Introduce new faculty.

b. Announcement regarding Oct 5 faculty conference. Jim and Jill remind FA of the issues proposed at last Faculty Conference as the agenda for this faculty conference. The FA will have a full semester to suggest ideas for the faculty conference in May.

- c. Alex suggests a decision item: a resolution stating the faculty's rejection of NJ's new residency laws. Also need to clarify policy.
 - d. Jim suggests a resolution stating that faculty agreed last year that there is a desire for an Academic Commons for faculty use, and that the FA wishes it to be located in the carriage house.
 - e. Question of whether to take attendance at FA meetings. Is not taking it a violation of Robert's Rules of Order?
 - i. Max makes a motion not to take attendance. Seconded.
 - ii. After some discussion, there is no consensus on the issue, so it is tabled for next FAEC meeting.
5. Motion to end meeting. Approved. Meeting adjourned 11:15am.