

Faculty Assembly Meeting
September 21, 2011
Secretary: Rebecca Root
11:30am, Friends Hall

1. FA President Morley calls the meeting to order.

2. Welcome by Provost Barnett

a. This is a difficult year in terms of budget and the college is reaching the limit of how much it can raise tuition. Though the freshman class met the target, there are approx 100 empty beds – students who made the financial decision not to live on campus.

b. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that the incoming class is characterized by higher SAT scores (average in the 1100s) and by a substantial degree of diversity (26%). Administrators responsible for enrollment and faculty involved in events such as incoming student days deserve recognition for their hard work. If you are interested in helping organize events to encourage student engagement, please contact the Provost's Office.

c. Strategic planning is underway. The administration proposes that one faculty member from each unit be invited to participate on the steering committee for strategic planning.

d. There has been good progress on assessment. Please remember to integrate CEC into all syllabi, as Middle States will scrutinize this.

e. Graduate enrollments hit 90% of targets. The proposed Special Education program is now before the state, after being approved by the president's council. ASB is considering revitalizing its MBA program, but this issue is still before the unit. In SSHS, the adult education program currently has a curricular theme of social justice. Please let the Provost's office know if you wish to get involved in teaching in this program.

f. In 2012-3 and 2013-4, renovations will be taking place in G wing renovations. This will place a crunch on scheduling, particularly in the most popular time slots, because many class rooms will not be available. The Provost will keep the FA updated on these developments.

g. The COPLAC conference is coming up soon. If you are interested in taking a student, submit an abstract by this Friday. The college will cover most costs.

3. Deans (or their proxies) introduce new Faculty

a. ASB welcomes Prof. Jennifer O'Neil in management and Prof. Vasundhara Chakraborty in accounting.

b. AIS has no new faculty members to welcome.

c. CA welcomes Prof. Rowlett Neil Scott in digital filmmaking.

d. SSHS welcomes Prof. Sanghamitra Padhy and Prof. Eileen Klein.

e. TAS welcomes Prof. Julie Fitzgerald in nursing and Prof. Ximena Valderrama in biology.

f. The library welcomes librarian Samantha Wittenberg.

4. Approval of minutes from April FA. Motion seconded, approved.

5. Report from FA President Jim Morley

a. Best wishes for Prof. Kay Fowler, a past president of the FA and cherished colleague who is battling grave health problems.

b. Review of Robert's Rules of Order, adopted last year to bring greater order to FA meetings. Rep. Alex Olbrecht is serving as parliamentarian, with Rep. Jill Weiss as backup. Individuals must be recognized by President Morley to speak; use the microphone; identify themselves and their school; limit their comments to two minutes; and not speak again until everyone who wishes to speak has done so.

c. In November, new representatives to the FAEC must be elected. In Spring, the FA presidential election will be held. Please consider running for these positions.

d. FAEC has considered the question of whether to take attendance at FA. The issue was raised from the floor at the last FA (April 2011). FAEC representatives consulted with their units/constituents and found that the majority was opposed to instituting the taking of attendance at FA. Hence the FAEC does not deem it necessary to bring the question to the FA.

e. Planning for the Oct 5 Faculty Conference continues apace. Three presenters will address issues to important to higher education. These speakers will give brief treatments of the issue and then lead discussion. Prof. Jill Weiss address the role of the liberal arts today; Prof. Steve Rice

will focus on Louis Menand's recent book on higher ed; and Prof. Rikki Abzug will address who the modal Ramapo student is. The conference will be approximately 4 hours in duration on the afternoon of Oct 5.

f. Please send suggestions to the FAEC email (faec@ramapo.edu) regarding the Spring faculty conference day.

g. FAEC has met three times so far this Fall and has been working on identifying priorities to work on this academic year. The priorities identified are:

- i. Streamlining paperwork and procedures generally.
- ii. Implementing online course evaluations that are to the satisfaction of the faculty.
- iii. Streamlining promotion and tenure procedures.
- iv. Ensuring an authentic and effective faculty voice in the upcoming Strategic Plan.
- v. Seeking further refinement of the principle of "shared collegial governance" with the administration.

h. The State of NJ residency law is now in effect. Judith Jeney has been in touch with an ethics board responsible for interpreting it. She has clarified that everyone already hired is grandfathered in, and even when you change status you will not be required to relocate to NJ.

i. Christina Connor (Library) is our current clicker-meister. She needs an additional 1-2 volunteers to take responsibility for this (both to assist and in case she has to miss an FA).

j. Update on Faculty Commons. The carriage house has been designated as a future common space for faculty and staff, with students entitled to use the space during certain times as well. FA president will be included in the planning for use of this space and will report back to the FA.

6. Election of all-college FAEC Representative

a. Prof. Peggy Greene (TAS) makes a brief statement about her background and qualifications for this position.

b. The normal rules for voting are suspended, and voting is instead conducted by a show of hands. Prof. Greene is elected by a landslide and welcomed to the FAEC.

7. Reports

a. Assessment Committee (Vice Provost Eric Daffron): All programs that were required to do so, submitted their assessment reports over the summer. Nearly all 2011-12 plans have been submitted. Unit and all-college assessment bodies will be reviewing these in the weeks ahead, as well as designing a plan to assess CEC.

b. ARC (Prof. Emma Rainforth): Reminder that the ARC manual was updated this past Spring and is posted on the FA webpage. There are now separate forms for new courses and for revisions of courses. Proposals for new and revised courses are due to ARC October 15.

c. Task force on SBR (Prof. Sam Mustafa): The task force formed at end of last academic year and includes a broad array of disciplines and both junior and senior faculty. Their goals include making the SBR process more meaningful and honest. They propose changing to an "all or nothing" approach to awarding funds; setting aside some funds for "micro-grants"; and making it possible to use SBR funds at times other than the current two month window in Summer. The Task Force plans to finish writing drafts of these proposed new regulations of SBR this semester so that these policies might be implemented this year.

d. Union Report (Irene Kutcha): Nothing has really happened in contract negotiations yet, but please see the latest edition of "The Voice" for details about what the state is asking for in negotiations; it is bleak from the perspective of faculty and staff. A negotiation session is coming this Friday. Next Wednesday at 11:30 in SC136 there is a general union meeting. A survey will be conducted at that meeting to judge what faculty will or will not accept in the new contract. The union is also calling for political action in District 38 of NJ. Only members in the union are entitled to attend meetings and vote on contract, though all faculty are covered by the contract. Requests from the floor for the union to have a session to clarify how the union functions and contracts are negotiated. Comments from the floor also suggest that faculty in ASB may hold an event regarding issues relevant to contract negotiation.

8. Discussion: FAEC annual agenda

a. President Morley restates the FAEC annual agenda priorities. Suggestions can always be sent to the FAEC email.

b. President Morley opens the floor to discussion of this agenda. No objections are raised from the floor.

9. New Business

a. A concern is raised that the identity of the college will change because the administration is adding slogans to emails and adopting marketing strategies akin to those used in the corporate world. Faculty successfully resisted such attempts in the past, but now these plans are underway. We need to inform ourselves about these changes and how to resist.

b. The Print Shop now requires 15 days notice to print materials. A concern is raised that this is excessive and prohibits faculty from making use of this office for time-sensitive materials, such as tests in classes.

c. Discussion of whether the lower number of students living on campus is tied to the banning of freshmen cars on campus.

d. Dissatisfaction with the college bookstore is voiced, specifically related to failure to fulfill book orders and communicate effectively with faculty.

10. Close of business meeting at 12:35. Moved, seconded. Approved.

11. Announcements

a. Two students from Haiti have arrived on campus, both recipients of scholarships funded by faculty donations. Please give to Ramapo Foundation for the Haitian Student Scholarship so this program can continue to flourish. The goal is 100% faculty participation in the scholarship program.

b. TLTR (Teaching, Learning, and Technology Roundtable) has extended the deadline for grants for innovative use of technology in the classroom to October 30. If you have a project, contact Christina Connor (Library) or Prof. Ann LePore (CA) for details.

c. On September 28 there will be a workshop for faculty on how best to engage students on writing. A series of panels will be from 10am to 4pm in the York Room.