

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016
ASB 007-008
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Attendees: Emma Rainforth, Rebecca Root, Ken McMurdy, Susan Kurzmann, Roark Atkinson, Susan Eisner, Bonnie Blake, Eva Ogens

Excused Absence: Jonathan Lipkin

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Peter Mercer, Beth Barnett

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from April 6, 2016
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Gen Ed Discussion
 - a. The Provost appears to be satisfied with the FAEC's revisions to the Gen Ed governance document. There is some dissention among the deans. Specifically, some deans would like explicit caps.
 - b. Among the preliminary criteria suggested for approving Gen Ed courses is a requirement that the majority of the course be of Gen Ed content. Some schools are concerned that this may prevent "major courses" from being included in the Gen Ed program.
 - i. Some members of the FAEC expressed reservations about having too many major courses in Gen Ed--as this might give certain programs an unfair advantage.
 - ii. There is also confusion about what it means for a course to have a "majority" of content in Gen Ed. Is this measured by time spent? Will GECCo mandate that specific assignments or evaluations match up to Gen Ed objectives?
 - c. Some faculty members continue to have a problem with the use of "outcomes" as criteria (rather than objectives).
 - d. Additional criteria for GECCo to consider 1) course capacities per current AA policy, 2) aging out of courses, 3) teaching by FT Faculty.
 - i. GECCo should be empowered to revise course approval criteria if necessary.
 - e. The FAEC would like to send a faculty member to the Middle States annual conference with the Provost and Vice Provost (as the Provost has offered). This individual should (probably) be a full professor and elected by FA.

- f. The SSHS faculty would like to know if we need full assessment data before Middle States's next visit, or will it suffice to demonstrate that we are working on the assessment process. Many members of SSHS feel that there is not enough time. The SSHS rep will ask the Provost later in this meeting.
 - g. The FAEC will add language to the governance document that no more than three coordinators on GECCo 2.0 (i.e., the new GECCo) will come from the same school.
- 3) Guest: Provost Beth Barnett
- a. The Provost supports the preliminary criteria for approving Gen Ed courses. She wants to ensure that these criteria will be enforced (including during course reapplication every three years).
 - b. The Provost supports sending a faculty member to the annual Middle States conference (depending on funding, it may be possible to send more than one). The FAEC would like to endorse this idea at next week's FA.
 - c. The SSHS rep asked the Provost about the need for assessment data before Middle States' next visit. The Provost emphasized the necessity of having assessment data (the College cannot afford to have another monitoring report). The federal government is "putting the heat" on Middle States to more strongly enforce federal standards. The Provost will reiterate the need for assessment data at next week's FA.
 - d. The Provost indicated that there will be more time for assessment activities as we are not trying to put incoming Fall 2016 students on the new Gen Ed. In addition, the fact that not all categories need to be assessed at the same time creates extra flexibility.
 - e. The Provost announced that her office is exploring a sunset policy for all courses (e.g., any course not taught in the last four to six years might be removed from catalogue).
 - f. The Provost was asked about granting course releases to GECCo members for next year (due to the extra workload expected). This presents funding issues (i.e., where will the money come from?). It was suggested that splitting reassigned time into one-year stipends might be an alternative.
 - g. When asked about longitudinal assessment, the Provost agreed

that such an approach is valuable. Nevertheless, longitudinal assessment is not the type of assessment needed for Middle States.

- 4) Guest: President Mercer
 - a. The President was informed that the Library Renovations Task Force's whitepaper will be voted on at next week's FA. When approved, the report will be forwarded to the President and Cabinet.
 - b. The President's library committee will not be formed until we know how much funding the College will be receiving from the State.
 - c. Trenton Update: The State and the AFT are disputing the status of salary increments.
 - d. The College welcomes the participation of faculty at commencement. He will explore the possibility of allowing faculty to rent dorm rooms the night before commencement.
 - e. President Mercer agrees that it would be a good idea to set aside some time to debrief whether relations and communication between the faculty and the administration have improved.
 - f. In response to a question, President Mercer indicated that he has not received any additional information about the student that was hit by a car (which he announced at FA last semester).

- 5) FA Agenda for 4/27
 - a. Sustainability minor may come forward.
 - b. Alternate Unit Reps (perhaps this can be voted as an ad hoc item next week--Prof. Rainforth will speak with Prof. Kwak).
 - c. Library Renovations Task Force report - vote to approve. Report will be sent to faculty on Friday.
 - d. Refreshing GECCo charge and change in membership requirements (e.g., one year transition, min of 2 members/max of 3 coordinators from each School).
 - e. Experiential Learning Task Force report - vote to endorse. This item will be moved earlier on agenda since it's less complex.