

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016
ASB: 007-008
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

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

Excused Absence: Eva Ogens

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Provost Beth Barnett

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from April 13, 2016
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Announcements
 - a. There will be no vote on GECCo's refreshed charge at today's FA (due to time constraints).
 - b. At this afternoon's FA meeting, we will:
 - i. Vote to endorse the Experience Learning Task Force's report.
 - ii. Vote to approve, in concept, the sending of a faculty member to the Middle States annual meeting.
 - iii. Vote to approve the Library Renovations Task Force's report
 - c. After FA (during what would otherwise be a faculty forum), Prof. Rainforth will facilitate a discussion (no voting) of the new charge for GECCo (current GECCo and working group members will be specifically asked to stay for this discussion, but it will be open to all faculty).
 - i. Hopefully, there will not be a need to call a May 11 FA--in which case ballots for approving GECCo's new charge will be mailed to faculty. Faculty members should send ballots to the Secretary by May 11.

- 3) Discussion of Proposed GECCo Course Criteria (in lieu of category course caps)
 - a. Deans Council is split on the issue. The Provost appears amenable while the Deans appear divided.
 - b. Deans want to keep Gen Ed course to 200 level and below.

- i. Some members of the FAEC feel that allowing 300-level courses may permit too much double counting with majors. Other members feel that GECCo should be authorized to determine this.
 - ii. There is a concern that the Deans are having too much control over these proposed GECCo criteria (which may be a “curricular” as opposed to a “scheduling” concern). Perhaps the criteria the FAEC is negotiating with Deans Council should be considered recommendations.
 - c. Perhaps that following language would be helpful: “The new GECCo committee needs to be contemplating the rules for double counting.”
 - d. In order to keep the new GECCo members informed of these changes, the FAEC unanimously appoints Prof. Rebecca Root to serve as a liaison between the Gen Ed Governance Committee and the new GECCo membership.
- 4) Guest: Provost Beth Barnett
- a. Prof. Rainforth informed the Provost that the FAEC is concerned that Deans are making curricular decisions for GECCo. Any criteria that is agreed to should and may need to be modified by the new GECCo.
 - b. Provost Barnett reiterated the Deans’ concerns about removing caps. Caps may (perhaps) need to be implemented until criteria can be established.
 - c. The Provost stated that she is looking for a compromise between the Deans and Faculty on caps. Having the support of Deans is important for effective leadership.
 - d. The FAEC and the Provost discussed the restriction, described in the Deans’ revisions to the proposed criteria, about limiting the double counting of distribution category courses. The Provost responded that such courses are not disciplinary courses and serve a general population. However, she agreed to talk to the Deans about Prof. Root’s proposed language revisions regarding this issue.
 - e. Perhaps many of these concerns can be alleviated by adding a statement that the proposed criteria will be assessed after the first year (or some other reasonable time period).

- f. There is a debate between the faculty and the deans on what issues are considered “curricular”.
- g. A member of the FAEC suggested to the Provost that many of the shared governance concerns expressed by faculty are directed at Deans (not necessarily the Present/Provost).

5) Other Announcements

- a. Prof. Rainforth will email vertical working group coordinators to solicit nominations for GECCo members.
- b. A May 11 FA meeting does not appear necessary at this time (if GECCo process goes smoothly at Unit Councils on 5/4).