

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2016
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:45am

Attendees: Tae Kwak, Christina Connor, Cristina Perez, Kathryn Zeno, Roark Atkinson, Gladys Torres-Baumgarten, Renata Gangemi, Eva Ogens, Kim Lorber

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: President Peter Mercer

1) Visit by President Mercer.

- a. There have been discussions about a partnership between Ramapo and a local developer to build low and middle income housing in Upper Saddle River. The project would not require Ramapo to invest money (i.e., the College would only be licensing its name). Ramapo would get portion of the proceeds of the development. It is possible that a small number of Ramapo faculty and staff will qualify for subsidized middle income housing. This might improve Ramapo's ability to recruit and retain faculty and staff.
- b. Demographic changes (including a reduction in the number of college bound students) will likely have an impact on Ramapo College in the future. For example, Bergen County College is currently down 2,500 students from its high point. In response, Ramapo may have to make changes to its admissions standards (although this is not something that needs to be addressed immediately, as we seem to be achieving our enrollment targets).
- c. We are in the process of obtaining funds for renovating the library. Some of this money will be borrowed by refinancing the College's debt. Some of this money will come from donors (the College has a detailed fundraising plan).
- d. President Mercer was asked about the College's level of emergency preparedness. The issues discussed included:
 - i. The use of glass walls (e.g., Adler building).
 - ii. The absence of door locks in many classrooms.
 - iii. Concerns that new buildings (e.g., a renovated library) are designed without considering such issues.
 - iv. President Mercer indicated that such issues are being discussed with the Board of Trustees.
 - v. President Mercer assures the FAEC that he will support this group in its efforts to educate all stakeholders about crisis management/emergency preparedness at the College.
- e. President Mercer was asked about the possibility of making Ramapo College a sanctuary campus. He is concerned about the legalities of adopting such a policy. However, President Mercer has signed a statement, organized by Pomona College President David Oxtoby, that calls for the continuation and expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. More than 500 College and University Presidents have signed this statement.

- f. Another sexual assault was reported on Ramapo's campus (as indicated in a campus-wide email). Title IX mandates strict reporting and notification policies of such incidents. Of course, as a school's reporting policies and systems become more efficient, the number of sexual assault complaints tends to rise. This needs to be explained to the community. It is also important to realize that many victims will not come forward (leading to some systematic underreporting).
- 2) Approval of FAEC minutes from December 7, 2016.
 - a. Approved.
- 3) The Provost did provide a written response to Prof. Karlin's Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement report. There was some confusion about when a response was communicated.
- 4) Final exam times for hybrid courses are frequently conflicting with other exams.
 - a. Can the FA intervene (even though scheduling is not a curricular matter)?
 - b. Can we ask for more reading days? It is possible that the absence of a reading day was a unique situation for this year.
 - c. Perhaps we should ask the registrar if we can have fixed hybrid schedules for future semesters.
 - i. Prof. Kwak will investigate.
- 5) A new system (ASTRA) for making room reservations has been implemented. Many faculty members have been experiencing problems with this system and many room reservations made on the prior system were lost.
 - a. The College seems to launch many new IT systems without announcements and training (at least there is a perception that this is happening).
 - b. The FAEC, at present, has been unable to reserve the Pavilion for next semester's FA meetings (the reservation was made on the old system and has been lost).
- 6) Faculty Forum times and topics will be sent to faculty by email before FA meetings (initially, there were concerns about compromising the confidentiality of topics/times by announcing them in emails).
- 7) The President's Library Task force will be charged tomorrow.