

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2015
York Room
9:30 AM to 11:45 aM

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

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: GEIT Governance Committee

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from January 27, 2016
 - a. Approved

- 2) President Rainforth's Report
 - a. President Rainforth met with President Mercer and Provost Barnett earlier this week. The Provost will be having office hours this afternoon after unit council. The topic of today's office hours is the ASB dean search. The Provost will continue to visit unit council meetings of each department that she has not previously visited this academic year.
 - i. Report from ASB FAEC rep - Two senior ASB faculty members met with the Provost to discuss the ASB dean search. She indicated that new recruitment and selection procedures were in place. These procedures do not indicate that internal candidates should be considered before launching an external search. Can the FAEC get more transparency regarding these new procedures? This will be discussed at the Provost's office hours this afternoon.
 - ii. President Mercer informed President Rainforth that the Provost will be chairing the search.
 - b. President Rainforth discussed concerns about nonfunctional campus space with President Mercer (to ensure that this does not become an issue with future library renovations/expansions).

- 3) Provost's Council
 - a. The review period for the proposed revision to the undergraduate teaching load policy has been extended for 30 days.
 - b. Provost's Council has adjusted the proposed policy to allow modifications to degree requirements for students with documented disabilities. Specifically, they have agreed to require input from the convening group and faculty expert earlier in the adjudication process. They have also agreed

to clarify that the definition of disabilities includes physical disabilities.

- 4) Student Governance Association discussion
 - a. The FAEC was surprised that the SGA has singled out “course evaluations” [i.e. Student Opinion Survey feedback] as one of their top priorities. The student body may not understand how the Student Opinion Survey is currently used and its role as an instrument. It is possible that the SGA may need assistance in setting more actionable goals for governance. A member of the FAEC has agreed to have an informal discussion with the SGA president about these concerns.

- 5) FAEC review of “GEIT Governance working group” draft
 - a. The role of GECCo per its original (2009) charge is to oversee the GE curriculum by 1) approving Gen Ed courses before they go to ARC (similar to WAC) and 2) assessing the Gen Ed program. In practice, GECCo’s focus to date has been on the latter. The GEIT draft governance document is suggesting that GECCo will be responsible for both functions when the new Gen Ed program is implemented.
 - b. The FAEC reviewed the draft “GEIT governance working group” document prepared by the administration. Highlights of this discussion are described below.
 - i. The proposed document does not say anything about the relevance, currency, and freshness of the courses. It currently provides no criteria for determining which courses stay in each Gen Ed category (as the number of courses in each category will be capped). Presumably, courses will need to be periodically added and removed from these categories.
 - ii. There needs to be greater clarity describing how coordinators for the Gen Ed categories will be selected. GECCo coordinators and directors are expected to coordinate with convenors (this should be specified).
 - iii. As GECCo will evaluate courses, not instructors, there should be no mention of course/student evaluations or classroom observations.
 - iv. The document should state whether “reporting back to faculty” includes periodic updates at unit council meetings.
 - v. The GECCo Chair should periodically meet with the FAEC (just as the ARC Chair currently does).
 - c. The FAEC would like to know whether students can choose NOT to be grandfathered into the current Gen Ed program. Can there be a list of substitutions for students that have taken courses in the

current Gen Ed program? There is some disagreement among members of the FAEC allowing students to blend old and new Gen Ed courses.

- 6) GEIT Governance Committee meeting (the GEIT governance committee consists of the Provost, Vice Provost, Deans, and the FAEC)
 - a. The Provost and Vice Provost both reiterated governance problems with the current Gen Ed program. The college would like the original vision of GECCo (with its dual role) to be included in the governance structure of the new Gen Ed program. The Vice Provost has provided a draft document to outline this proposed governance structure [this is the document that FAEC reviewed earlier today].
 - b. Provost Barnett indicated that most colleges have some type of body overseeing their Gen Ed programs (at least for assessment purposes). The proposed model is not out of line with other institutions.
 - c. The FAEC communicated needed clarifications and revisions to the drafted document (see 5 above). Provost Barnett confirmed that she will set a cap for Gen Ed categories. The FAEC also stated its view that only Gen Ed *courses*, not *faculty members*, should be evaluated by GECCo (as language in the drafted document might suggest otherwise). Although the Provost agrees, she pointed out that faculty that teach in the Gen Ed program must comply with the learning outcomes that have been agreed to. The college needs to ensure that faculty who teach Gen Ed courses are actually trying to close the loop.
 - d. Vice Provost Daffron was asked if the current WAC model is working. He agreed that it is from a systems perspective.
 - e. The group worked through the first half of the document. We will discuss the remainder at our next meeting (Feb. 18).