

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2017
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:45am

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

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: President Peter Mercer and Provost Beth Barnett

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from February 8, 2017.
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Visit by President Mercer.
 - a. Discussion of Sanctuary Campus Status.
 - i. At present, Ramapo College will not voluntarily share information about students with government agencies unless required by law or judicial order.
 1. Many members of the faculty would like Ramapo College to more actively take steps to be a Sanctuary Campus (going beyond our current privacy protections).
 - ii. The Director of the Roukema Center is the point person should any Ramapo student encounter issues with immigration enforcement or U.S. reentry.
 - b. Weather Safety.
 - i. Why was the ice and snow not cleared from the parking lots until after 7am on Monday (2/14)? Many staff, faculty, and students arrive on campus before this time, and the presence of ice and snow creates a safety risk. If the parking lots cannot be cleared in a timely fashion, than a delayed opening is justified for the purposes of safety.
 1. President Mercer indicated that he was not aware that the lots were not cleared before Monday morning. He will investigate what type of appraisal was done on Monday morning (he is generally notified about condition of parking lots by 5am during times of inclement weather).

- 3) Visit by Provost Barnett.
 - a. Consultants from Gray Associates came to the College over winter break to discuss strategies and ideas for enrollment-enhancing programs and majors.
 - i. These consultants were guided by data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS, a national database to which all colleges and universities report).
 - ii. These data were used to explore programs deemed most viable in specific geographical areas. In addition, new programs that may increase

student enrollment were suggested.

1. Additional analyses of specific graduate and undergraduate programs will be conducted.
- iii. The consultants were directed NOT to conduct any analyses on programs to stop/discontinue.
 1. As an aside, the Provost recommends that faculty develop a procedure to dropping programs. At present, there is no process in place and nothing to prevent the BofT from dropping programs without faculty input.
- iv. Any discussion of using new programs to increase enrollment must be mindful of the fact that many students change their major after entering Ramapo.
 1. Can we get some statistics on differences between incoming and graduating majors?
 2. In addition, new programs may not retain students if other aspects of the College are deficient (e.g., lack of social activities, inadequate public transportation).
- b. Demographic Changes.
 - i. Data suggests a declining number of Caucasian and African American high school graduates (particularly in this part of the country). Such demographic changes will create challenges for Ramapo Colleges. Schools will be competing for a smaller number of college-bound students.
 1. The College needs to do a better job reaching out to Hispanic/Latino and Asian student populations.
 - a. This might require an investment in additional resources (e.g., better ESL support, a more professionalized tutoring/writing center).
- c. Has the College identified the reasons why accepted applicants may not enroll at Ramapo? Are we sure programs are the problem?
 - i. Provost's response--Most reasons have to do with location, size, personal issues (boyfriend/girlfriend), and programs. However, individuals who are not happy with Ramapo's offering of programs tend not to apply.

4) Library Renovation Update – Christina Connor.

- a. Faculty should pay attention to any emails from their Deans (or others) regarding library renovations. Many library resources may not be easily accessible to students once the physical renovations commence. The library will soon be making important resource allocation decisions, and faculty input is essential. Do not ignore library-related emails!
 - i. Some library resources might be stored off campus, delaying access to certain resources.
 - ii. The library staff (and the College as a whole) will need to start thinking about finding space for storing print media. Those resources that students need easy access to (e.g., specific titles, subject matter,

references) will have to be identified soon (hence the need for faculty input).

5) Other Items

- a. Next Wednesday (Feb 22) is Faculty Development Day. Various presentations will occur from 12-3:30pm and will include such topics as working with students with autism, experiential learning, sexual assault, and advice for DACA students.