

Faculty Assembly Executive Council Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2014

ASB-230

915-1100 AM

Present: Emma Rainforth, Rebecca Root, Susan Eisner, Ken McMurdy, Kim Lorber, Susan Kurzmann, Roark Atkinson, and Jonathan Lipkin

Absent: Bonnie Blake

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guest: Thierry Rakotobe-Joel (ARC)

1. Meeting with Thierry (ARC):

- a. ARC is in the process of counting total course requests; it will have the total count by the end of today and will report back to the President of FA.
- b. ARC website is updated.
- c. Two new programs have been submitted to the ARC for review: Earth Science minor and MSW. These programs will be introduced to the FA meeting on 11/12.

2. Update from President Emma Rainforth's meeting with President Peter Mercer:

- a. At least one faculty member will serve on the VPEMSA search committee as well as the Dean's search committee.
- b. FAEC queried about the criteria and guidelines on searching for administrative positions and also about the hiring and reappointment of Deans. FAEC will follow up with the administration to get clarification on these criteria and guidelines.
- c. President Rainforth requested from President Mercer a summary of the pending state legislation on higher education, which deals with total credits and standardizing the numbering of courses (i.e., Biology 101 will be used uniformly across all colleges and universities to refer to introduction to biology).
- d. President Rainforth requested a copy of the Krame Center proposal.

3. The Provost introduced the Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement to the Board of Trustees and described it as a response to the Task Force on Financial Sustainability. Hence, the FAEC moved for a motion to vote that the Provost provide the Financial Sustainability report to the Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement.

- a. FAEC voted for the motion

4. Approving FA minutes from 10/15

- a. Discussed and followed-up on Motion # 3 approved by the FA on 10/15
- b. FAEC approved that the FA minutes draft can be posted on the FA website.

5. Approving FAEC minutes from 10/15
 - a. FAEC approved

6. Deans' evaluations
 - a. Jill Weiss provided the survey from last year
 - b. Discussed the survey questions and appropriate wording for the questions

7. Bulletin boards (academic wings)
 - a. There is insufficient facility for faculty and student needs to be met with regard to communicating information necessary for faculty-student engagement in some of the newer academic wings; we need to have bulletin boards in, for instance, hallways/stairwells (cores), bulletin boards/magnetic strips by faculty offices, etc. Some useful information and resources that should be communicated, but no longer can be in these wings, include but are not limited to:
 - o Campus activities
 - o Student clubs
 - o Information from convening groups (programs)
 - o Opportunities for students: employment, internships, grad schools, funding
 - o Mail boxes on faculty doors for student work
 - o Faculty office hours being posted outside faculty offices
 - b. These items were present prior to renovation of these spaces and have not been replaced
 - o Academic needs are paramount and need to be met in design decisions, and can be reconciled with aesthetic concerns. Faculty members have expressed concerns at the negative response from Dick Roberts, the AVP of Facilities Management and Construction Contracting Officer when such items have been requested.
 - o FAEC members wish to find out what the procedures are for restoring these facilities

8. Announcement: The Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement will report to faculty on November 5, 2014, 100 to 230 pm, in H-129. Faculty are encouraged to attend and provide any input to the Task Force

9. Emergency Preparedness
 - a. Donna Singer has prepared an emergency preparedness package. President Rainforth urged everyone to read it and will revisit the issue again in the next FAEC meeting. Ms. Singer will be invited to FAEC on 11/5.

10. Full-Professors Forum meeting (updates from Susan Eisner and Jonathan Lipkin)
 - a. The Forum reached a consensus that 4-credits model is most optimal for students' learning outcomes. The value of experiential learning was also affirmed.