

## **Faculty Assembly Executive Council Minutes**

October 8, 2014

ASB-230

900-1100 AM

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

Absent:

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guests: Beth Barnett (Provost), Martha Ecker (AFT President)

### 1. Meeting with Martha Ecker:

- a. The Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement will be charged today. The Task Force will only have faculty (no administrators) serving on it.
  - i. Discussed whether (and if so, which) administrators may be appropriate to serve on the Task Force
  - ii. Motion for FA President Emma Rainforth to propose to the Provost today to include Eric Daffron and one Dean to serve formally on the Task Force as representatives for the Administration. FAEC agreed to the motion
  - iii. Benchmarking other colleges should be part of the process
- b. Discuss and determine process by which the Task Force recommendations come through the FAEC/FA for input and decision
  - i. The FA will have opportunities to discuss and provide input during the Fall semester, and vote on the Task Force report and recommendations upon its completion
- c. Delineating the purview of the AFT and FA
  - i. In general, no change can be implemented without some negotiations with the Union. (A Sunset Clause only refers to a notice given to the Union prior to changing back to an original credit-system. However, the prior credit-system was multi-credits, not a 3-credit system)
  - ii. There is a change in working condition if teaching schedules are changed, and this should require negotiations between the management and union
  - iii. Contract specifies number of credit hours faculty members must teach, and number of days faculty members can expect to be on campus. Colleges in the NJ state system vary in how they implement that
  - iv. The impact of curricular decisions on students (learning, enrollment, graduation rates, retention) should be a major consideration

### 2. Faculty Assembly feedback:

- a. FAEC finished compiling the comments/suggestions/feedbacks raised in FA 9/24/14. President Rainforth will revise and upload the comments/suggestions to the FA website along with the FA meeting minutes from 9/24; the “disposition” of the comments/suggestions will be presented as part of the President’s Report.

### 3. Meeting with Provost Beth Barnett

- a. Discussed the Charge for the Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement
  - b. The Provost would like the Task Force to provide its White Paper to the Provost in January 2015. Changes, if any, will be made starting in Fall 2016 to meet the next Middle States report in 2020
  - c. FAEC queried the process and procedures in which the FA could respond, with enough time, to the Task Force's recommendations. More time is probably needed, and FAEC suggested that January 2015 is a very compressed time-frame. The Provost agreed that she will converse with the FA to decide on a more definitive deadline as we approach January
  - d. The Provost would like the Task Force to put forward a viable and integrated solution
  - e. Responding to the FAEC's proposal to have a Dean serving on the Task Force, the Provost stated that no single Dean can represent all the Deans and the entire administration. The Provost and Eric Daffron will participate on the Task Force in a limited fashion and Deans or other resources requested by the Task Force can be invited to the Task Force if needed
  - f. FAEC expressed that it might be best to include voices from both the Faculty and Administration on the Task Force. The Task Force recommendation should reflect a consensus between both sides and, therefore, might have greater authority. And, it may also be more effective and efficient
  - g. The Provost promised that administrators (including her, Eric, and others) will participate on the Task Force, but it's inappropriate to formalize their involvement on the Task Force since the Task Force will be expressing the faculty's recommendations, which are being solicited by the Administration as part of shared governance
  - h. The "sharing of governance" will continue after the Task Force presents its White Paper, as endorsed by the Faculty Assembly; if there are recommendations that the Provost will not endorse, the Administration will then discuss further with the Task Force
  - i. The Provost clarified that no groups from the Administration (e.g., Deans) would be working independently on the issues that the Task Force is being charged with. The recommendations from the Task Force are the only recommendations the Provost will be receiving
- ### 4. Discussed Agenda for next week's FA
- a. Reports (FA President, President Mercer, Provost Barnett). We will also invite Donna Singer (and others as necessary) to provide an update regarding campus safety and Ebola preparedness
  - b. Clarifying FA and AFT purview
  - c. Clarifying voting and non-voting members at the FA
  - d. Responses to comments/questions raised in FA 9/24/14; vote to accept the disposition document
  - e. Discussion: introduce the Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement; its process, the opportunities for faculty input/feedback/discussion/and endorsement
- ### 5. Future guests to be invited to the FAEC:
- a. IRAC (reps or chair)
  - b. Task Force chairs (Faculty Development, Use of technology for learning; Academic Future; Faculty Service; Rigor; Extended Experiential Learning)