

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2015
ASB: 007-008
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

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

Excused Absences:

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Martha Ecker

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from November 4, 2015
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Guest: Prof. Martha Ecker (AFT)
 - a. Prof. Ecker discussed with the FAEC the issue of convener compensation (which has been raised by faculty). This issue is primarily AFT related but should be informed by FA. Prof. Ecker and the FAEC note that there is wide variation across units in the responsibilities and release time assigned to convenors. She explained that the master contract does not specifically address this issue although a few NJ colleges have local agreements (outside the master contract). At Ramapo, there is no formal/written convenor-related agreement between the AFT and the administration.
 - b. At this time, given that negotiations for the master contract are ongoing, the FAEC will defer the issue of convenor compensation/release time to a future date.

- 3) FA President Emma Rainforth's Report
 - a. Prof. Rainforth met with Provost Barnett earlier in the week. There was a brief discussion about the process of selecting/replacing the chairs of FA committees. Prof. Rainforth was reassured that principles of shared governance, and the wishes of committees' members, are being respected.
 - b. Prof. Rainforth also expressed the FAEC's concern about deadline changes by the registrar without sufficient notice or faculty consultation. Specifically, the course withdraw deadline was extended to Nov. 13 for the Fall 2015 semester. Although this date was two weeks later than it had been in prior semesters, faculty were not notified or consulted before the decision was made. The faculty has expressed similar concerns in the past regarding the Registrar's changing of dates/deadlines.

- 4) Library Renovations Working Group
 - a. Prof. Atkinson is incorporating into the charge for the FA Library Renovations Task Force the suggestions he has received. Any additional feedback should be provided to him within a week.
 - b. There remains a question about the membership of the proposed task force. The FAEC suggests that a distinction be made between open meetings (e.g., town halls) in which all interested individuals can provide input and closed meetings in which only official members may vote. Each unit should elect one voting member as well as one alternate (who may attend task force meetings and vote when the primary member is not present). As student input is important, the task force should include non-voting student representatives (one primary and one alternate) selected by the SGA. The task force should also have one or more non-voting representatives from the Barrie Center. Although ongoing consultation with the administration is expected, the task force should not include members of the President's cabinet.

- 5) Other Items
 - a. The FAEC supports proposing an amendment to the FA's bylaws to allow for "alternate" FAEC members. The FAEC will explore allowing FA committees (e.g., ARC) to have alternate members (if these committees would like to have this type of membership).
 - b. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of using a mail ballot for the proposed Gen Ed changes. The FAEC supports an in-person ballot and will have the Gen Ed committee chair speak before the vote on Dec 2. Specifically, we will make available to the Gen Ed committee chair the Faculty Forum, which would *precede* Dec 2's Faculty Assembly, to communicate the proposed changes and the consequences of a "no" vote.
 - c. FAEC discussed that conversations about reassigned time for conveners should be broadened to include conversations about a) all reassigned time (not just for conveners), and b) compensation options other than reassigned time to choose from.
 - d. The library has space to retain approximately 500 textbooks on reserve (approximately 1/3 of the textbooks titles ordered by faculty). Faculty should be informed that they can put their textbooks on reserve at the library. The requesting faculty member should send a desk copy to the library. If the number of reserve requests exceeds the library's capacity, the library may give higher priority to more expensive titles. The library also has the discretion to establish a monetary threshold for reserve textbooks (should space limitations be reached).