

Faculty Assembly Executive Council Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2014

ASB-230

915-1100 AM

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

Absent: None

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guests:

1. Approving FAEC minutes from 10/29
 - a. Approved
2. Updates from President Rainforth's meeting with the Provost on 10/30:
 - a. Response from the Provost re: the "CEC motion" at the last FA:
 - i. In the meeting with the Provost and Martha Ecker (AFT President), President Rainforth clarified that the motion passed by the Faculty Assembly was for the Deans to check whether the CEC requirement is stated in the syllabus and is tied to learning outcomes not for the Deans to comment on the *quality* of the CEC; that is, it's a compliance (management) concern. The Provost stated that the deans have no way to enforce whether the CEC is present on a syllabus. Martha and Beth discussed whether sanctions against non-complying faculty could be put in place, but the Provost felt that even if such sanctions were made, they would still not result in CEC compliance from the handful of faculty that are (allegedly) not doing CEC.
 - ii. As a result, FAEC members further discussed the issue of ensuring the presence of the CEC on syllabi. Since we already have the CEC motion passed by the FA on 10/15, and we do not believe it is appropriate for conveners to be policing their faculty (given the constraints of the master contract and the job description for Conveners), the FAEC sought a way to resolve this impasse. FAEC voted and agreed on the following Resolution: In light of the Provost declining to have the Deans conduct a syllabus audit to affirm the presence of CEC and its ties to course outcomes, the FAEC suggests that the Task Force on Academic Excellence and Engagement should independently conduct such an audit for the Fall 2014 syllabi, in order to incorporate the results in a timely manner into its work

- b. The Provost will ask Chris Romano to send an email to all faculty at the start of each semester, with all dates of admissions events for that semester, to better enable convening groups to cover these events equitably.
3. Emergency Preparedness in classrooms and the library:
- a. President Rainforth has been communicating with Donna Singer. An alert system is already on classroom computers and Donna Singer will make it available for download for laptops. In the event of a serious campus emergency (i.e., not a bear sighting), alerts will pop up, and faculty will have to actively dismiss it. Given that not all faculty will be using a computer in class, or have their cellphones on and be willing to interrupt class to check their phones to see if an incoming text is actually an emergency alert, Ms. Singer will also coordinate with Dick Roberts and Public Safety regarding installation of emergency landline phones in classrooms.
 - b. The library might require additional or different measures
 - c. The FA will formally request emergency preparedness mechanisms consistent with industry standards & federal requirements (e.g. locks/deadbolts on the insides of classroom doors, emergency phones, computer alerts, PA system) at the next FA meeting on 11/12, to be put in place no later than 9/1/15.
4. Drafting FA agenda for 11/12:
- a. President Rainforth's report
 - b. President Mercer's report
 - c. Provost Barnett's report
 - d. Approval of minutes from 10/15 FA
 - e. ARC action items: two minors (Earth Science, Neuroscience)
 - f. Experiential Learning TF—discussion item (in advance of Decision item for next FA)
 - g. FAEC decision item: Emergency Preparedness notifications in classrooms/library
 - h. Old business
 - i. New business
5. Ramapo in the news:
- a. A recent (August) presentation to peer facilitators on alcohol education/has received some negative responses from a small number of students present who said that the presentation focused too much on the responsibility of the victims in preventing sexual assault and rape. This has been reported in the 10/29 issue of the Ramapo news and has been picked up by many off-campus online outlets. There does not appear to have been a formal response from the college beyond a

tweet on 10/31. FAEC noted that, given the context and timing of the presentation, it was not clear yet how reliable these news stories were.

- b. President Rainforth will express concern (to Communications, Student Affairs, Counseling & Health Services) to the seeming lack of a coordinated PR response to this.
6. Invite George Ruotolo (Chair, Board of Trustees) to FAEC:
- a. Mr. Ruotolo expressed at the last Board meeting that he would like to continue meeting with FAEC. Possible agenda items that could be discussed with Mr. Ruotolo:
 - i. Board issues that Mr. Ruotolo would like faculty input on.
 - ii. Overview of the FA Agenda for the year (including shared governance, and curricular issues). We would ask Eric Karlin to be on hand in the event that questions pertaining to the TFAEE arose.
 - iii. Strategic plan
7. International Risk Assessment Committee (IRAC):
- a. Prof. Atkinson, who is currently serving as the faculty representative to IRAC, expressed concerns about faculty representation on the committee as well as possible issues with how IRAC evaluates the risks and security of countries that students and/or faculty/staff can visit for college-related purposes (and for which college funding is received). For instance, there are countries on the State Department's ban list that are not on our ban list, and vice versa.
 - b. There is also a lack of communication between the committee and faculty at large; faculty members (and students) don't know what countries are off-limits; or how to appeal IRAC's decisions.
 - c. FAEC/FA will request that IRAC information (such as the Banned Country List) be posted on the study abroad website and also inform faculty in a timely manner whenever there are any updates and changes to this list.
 - d. A new faculty representative to IRAC must be selected by the FA for the Spring semester, when R. Atkinson will be on sabbatical. This will be announced at the next FA, for a vote the following month. We will be seeking faculty members with expertise in international programs.
 - e. Prof. Atkinson also believes that it is imperative to have more than one faculty member on this committee. We will raise this with E. Daffron (to whom IRAC reports).
 - f. FAEC reminded itself that faculty reps to committees such as this are in fact representing the faculty, and that therefore, they must be endorsed by the FA or FAEC.