

Faculty Assembly Executive Council Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2015

ASB-230

900-1100AM

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

Absent: None

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guests: President Peter Mercer, Provost Beth Barnett

1. Approving minutes from last FAEC meeting on 2/4 and FA meetings on 12/10 and 12/17:
 - a. FAEC meeting minutes from 2/4 were approved.
 - b. FA meeting minutes from 12/10 were approved.
 - c. FA meeting minutes from 12/17 were approved.

2. President Rainforth's update from her meeting with Provost Beth Barnett
 - a. FRC/IDC:
 - i. There won't be a new director to administer both FRC and IDC.
 - b. Fourth floor ASB:
 - i. The Nursing program will be relocating from ASB 4th floor to Adler, but the 4th floor spaces vacated will not be used for new classrooms. Some of the lab space will become TAS dean's office, TAS conference room, and graduate student lounge/common area, in addition to the continued usage of that 4th floor space by TAS computer labs. Nursing faculty offices will become offices for graduate programs.
 - c. Assessing new schedule:
 - i. Preliminary conversations between Provost Barnett and President Rainforth: the Provost suggested that the TFAEE report must be finished on time so the administration can make decisions about Fall 2016 at this April's BoT meeting.
 - ii. Rebecca Root stated that TFAEE will have a report by the end of February and will go through the FA for approval.
 - iii. SGA will hold a forum tomorrow (2/12) to discuss the effects of the new schedule. Some students have suggested that the new interim schedule may adversely impact their internship and job schedules.

3. Meeting with President Mercer and Provost Barnett:
 - a. Searches for VPAF: the President affirmed that faculty will definitely be consulted regarding faculty representation on the VPAF search. An external firm will be utilized also.
 - b. Commencement in May 2015 will be held at the Prudential Center (Friday, evening at 7PM).
 - c. New scheduling and timeline: President Mercer saw good joint consultations between the faculty and administration.
 - i. FAEC stated that the TFAEE report will be finished by the end of February; faculty members are making good efforts to make shared-governance work with the goal of maintaining the 4-credits course schedule.
 - ii. TFAEE report will go to FA for approval, and then to the Provost for her decision.
 - iii. Assessing the interim schedule will also be an important next step.
 - d. Provost Barnett stated that the TFAEE report must be finished in time for her to present recommendations to the Board of Trustees in April, and the administration will make a permanent decision for Fall 2016 onward. She also indicated we will also need to decide upon the permanent schedule (e.g. whether it will be 4-credits course structure), along with other related issues such as the new Gen Ed, transfers with 3 credits, and 120-credit minimum hours for graduation, which is being considered by the State Legislature. TCNJ and Ramapo are the only two of the nine state colleges that would be affected. The Provost confirmed that the TFAEE was not charged with looking at reducing graduation requirements to 120 credits.
 - e. FAEC raised concerns that this timeline might be difficult, and also that we need to assess the interim schedule for Fall 2015.
 - f. The Provost recognized that there are multiple issues out there, but all are interdependent and if the 4-credits course schedule becomes permanent, then we must look at the transfer issue (for students transferring from institutions with 3-credits courses) as well as the 120-credits requirement (if that comes to pass) and how they would fit into the new schedule structure.
 - g. President Mercer also stated that “some decisions made in April may not be decisive” (i.e., not set in stone, and could be modified subsequently).
 - h. Provost Barnett and FAEC discussed about students’ response to the interim schedule and how it might impact their internships, work schedule, and common hours activities.
 - i. Updates on the capital improvement: the Adler and G-Wing are still under renovations. President Mercer said that the next renovation will happen in the Student Center (Dinning Services) over the summer. Other projects on the horizon

include installation of photovoltaic canopies in parking lots, renovation of bathrooms in the Academic Wing cores, and interiors (kitchens/bathrooms) of some CPAs.

- j. Discussed utilization of ASB 4th floor after the Nursing program vacates. Provost wants a physical home for adult/graduate learners.
4. A second faculty rep to IRAC
 - a. IRAC co-chairs indicated they would like a 2nd faculty member on IRAC, to liaise with FAEC. Candidates who have come forward are Susan Hangen, Malavika Sundarajan, Romulo Magnaye, George Gonpu, and Elaine Patterson
 - b. FAEC discussed whether these individuals have experience in taking students abroad. FAEC unit reps will follow-up and provide recommendations.
 5. FAEC will be represented at SGA meeting on 2/12 at the Friends Hall (12 pm) to discuss the interim schedule change for 2015-16.
 6. Planning for FA agenda on 2/18 (Tentative):
 - a. Service TF report (decision item – pending receipt of revised report from the co-chairs).
 - b. Gen Ed plan: preliminary recommendations/survey results.
 - c. TFAEE (last report before it is finalized by the end of February)
 - i. March 11th FA will be the next meeting to discuss and, possibly, vote on the final report; if necessary, we may also need to have another FA meeting after spring break.
 - ii. FAEC suggested that even though the report will not be ready for the 18th, the TFAEE might present its recommendations verbally, so that faculty will have time to ask questions, and so expedite the approval of the report per the Provost's timeline (Board of Trustees meeting in April)
 7. The next Board of Trustees meeting has been changed to Thurs. Feb 26th, 7pm, Friends Hall.