

Faculty Assembly Executive Council Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2015

ASB-230

830-1100AM

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

Absent:

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guests: Provost Beth Barnett; Lauren Fuhring, Erica Colavita (SGA President and Vice-President)

1. Approval of FAEC minutes from 2/18
 - a. Approved.

2. President Rainforth's report on her meeting with Provost Barnett
 - a. Discussed/followed-up on the TFAEE report from FA (2/18).
 - b. Instructional Design Center and the Faculty Resource Center Director positions (as announced by email this week): Provost stated a previous FAEC had requested that these types of positions be opened up annually, and that would not preclude the incumbent applying for continuing in the position if s/he would like to. President Rainforth has not been able to confirm this yet from the FAEC minutes of the previous two years.
 - c. The Provost confirmed that, on the issue of tenure for administrators, only administrators who are hired with concurrent academic rank can be tenured.

3. Meeting with Provost Barnett
 - a. President Rainforth reiterated that faculty will email their feedback about the TFAEE draft report to FAEC by noon on Friday (2/27), and that the FA will vote on the revised report, in its entirety, at FA meeting on 3/11.
 - b. The Provost provided specific feedback about certain sections in the TFAEE draft report—and she will send out her written responses for the TFAEE Chair on Friday (2/27). Some of the items she identified were as follows:
 - i. Models used by TFAEE to explore the relative cost of adopting three different course-load options.
 - ii. Transfer credit issues, and revenue issue created by current work-load given to science faculty who teach labs.
 - iii. Space utilization on campus.
 - c. Rebecca Root stated that the TFAEE Task Force will look into the Provost's comments and address them.

- d. FAEC reconfirmed that the TFAEE report will be voted in its entirety on 3/11.
4. Meeting with the Lauren Fuhring and Erica Colavita (SGA President and VP)
- a. FAEC stated that faculty always take students' interests and concerns very seriously, and are happy to hear what students think about the interim schedule structure.
 - b. SGA expressed concerns that students were not consulted regarding the interim changes for Fall 2015. Students are very anxious about what the new schedules will look like and how that may impact their class time, work-schedule, internships, common hours.
 - c. FAEC clarified that the new schedule is not faculty's initiative even though faculty members do support full 4-credits of class time. FAEC also informed the students that it asked those developing the schedule as it was being developed what the students thought about it, and also that FAEC summarized to those developing the schedule concerns it thought students would have. Those concerns are similar to those students have since raised.
 - d. FAEC further clarified that the 4-credits interim change was only decided in December, and the Administration ultimately has purview over the class schedule, and has the authority to make changes without consultation.
 - e. SGA is preparing a memorandum of understanding (between SGA and the Administration) to convey students' wishes to be consulted in the decision-making process. This will be modeled on a prior memo of understanding that had been in place previously, but that had expired after one year.
 - f. FAEC stated that they intend for students to also weigh in on the new Gen Ed and new (Fall 2016) curriculum when the time arises.
 - g. SGA also plans to have a series of town-hall meetings with each Dean. FAEC asked that faculty be involved in these meetings, to represent the faculty view.
 - h. FAEC and SGA discussed the recent drinking and sexual assault incidents on campus. SGA is concerned that the sexual assault issue is being conflated with the alcohol/drinking problems. Sexual assault is a moral issue and requires greater community awareness and support.
5. Faculty rep to VPAF search
- a. Alex Olbrecht has volunteered to serve.
 - b. The FAEC agreed.
6. Next week's FAEC: partial agenda
- a. Discuss the Rigor TF report
 - b. Discussing and approving FA minutes from 2/18