

## Faculty Assembly Executive Council Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2015

ASB-230

930 AM -1110 AM

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

Excused absence: Bonnie Blake

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guests: None

1. Approval of last FAEC minutes (4/8)
  - a. Approved.
2. Approval of FA minutes (4/8)
  - a. Approved.
3. Discussion of next week's FA agenda (4/22)
  - a. Schedule Task Force:
    - i. Rep. Tae Kwak reported that the Schedule TF will put forward some changes for the Spring 2016 schedule in the FA.
    - ii. The Schedule TF is cautiously optimistic that the revisions being recommended should address the concerns of most faculty members, including teaching 3x a week, 2x a week evening classes, Wednesday meeting time slots, teaching slots on Wednesday mornings, common hour schedule, and lab schedule, etc. FAEC members also raised their suggestions.
    - iii. Rep. Susan Eisner wished to affirm, in the Full Professors Forum, that the Schedule Task Force has been making good progress on the Spring 2016 schedule and that the administration has been cooperating effectively with the TF in the spirit of shared-governance.
    - iv. The TF will also work on the permanent schedule for Fall 2016 subsequently.
  - b. Service Task Force:
    - i. FAEC discussed the Service Task Force report and whether the FA should vote on their recommendations or simply accept the receipt of their report.
    - ii. Vice President Rebecca Root stated that the FA should engage in some meaningful discussions about the Service TF report, if not voting on them, since the guidelines and rubrics for services impact faculty's tenure and promotion opportunities.
    - iii. FAEC will follow up with the Service TF to see whether it wants their recommendations to be voted by the FA or if it is simply reported at FA and, then, submitted to the Provost for her consideration.

4. Reports from President Rainforth:
  - a. Updates on the BoT meeting on 4/13 regarding the bonds issued for funding the Students Center renovation. At the BoT meeting, it was stated that it may be necessary to “modestly” increase the capital improvements fee by \$100/semester (it is currently \$500/semester) starting in 3 or 4 years, in order to finance the bond.
  - b. However, President Mercer stated in his meeting with President Rainforth subsequently, that he thought it unlikely that such a large increase would be necessary, and any increase would be phased in.
  - c. Graduate Council: discussed the graduate teaching load
    - i. Current College policy states that faculty must teach 4 (of their 6) courses in load each academic year. This means up to 2 courses may be reassigned or taught in graduate programs.
    - ii. MSW program—the MSW accreditation requires that faculty in the program must teach 51% of their teaching loads at the graduate level (4 courses). Hence, there is a clear conflict between Ramapo’s policy and the MSW accreditors’ policy on teaching loads.
    - iii. The proposed two new tracks in the Nursing graduate program will also likely conflict with this policy.
    - iv. Any suggested changes to the policy must be formally introduced at Provost’s Council, at which time members (including President Rainforth) will share with their constituents for comments/feedback. President Rainforth stated that this would need to come to Faculty Assembly for a vote.
    - v. Rep. Ken McMurdy suggested that this issue should be discussed and included in the Shared-Governance Report.
5. Discussed the Ramapo Foundation’s financial shortfalls. FAEC will follow up with President Mercer.
6. Faculty Conference (May) agenda will be discussed at the next FAEC meeting.