

Faculty Assembly Executive Council Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2015

ASB-230

900 AM -1100 AM

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

Excused absence:

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guests: Eva Ogens (incoming SSHA rep for Sept. 2015)

1. Approval of FAEC minutes from 4/22
 - a. Approved.

2. Approval of FA minutes from 4/22
 - a. Approved.
 - b. Discussion: at the FA meeting on 4/22, the Provost reported that the College has received budget from SPIF for the following purposes over the next three years: \$50,000 to support faculty to go to conferences and workshops relating to pedagogy; \$25,000 to provide some stipends to adjunct faculty members who want to attend training sessions or workshops on campus. FAEC members queried how these monetary/stipend supports would be spent and paid out specifically. President Rainforth will follow-up with the Provost.

3. Provost's Council update (President Rainforth's report)
 - a. Reminder on Provost's Council functioning: New College policies will get voted on after a 30 day review period (during which time FAEC members take it back to their constituents for review/comment). Revisions to *procedures* are generally not given the 30 day review window unless specifically requested by a constituent rep.
 - b. All of the following items are on the Provost's Website, under Faculty Resources/ Policies in Review.
 - c. Information items (FAEC reps are reminded to bring up these issues to Unit Council meetings):
 - i. Independent study procedure has been updated to allow graduate independent studies. Yet, there are some parameters, just as with undergraduate, and some programs won't allow independent studies (MSW, NURS).
 - ii. PLEX/GLEX procedure updated to reflect that not all graduate programs will accept GLEX.
 - d. Items requiring decisions (FAEC reps are reminded to bring up these decision items to Unit Council meetings):
 - i. Online/hybrid course definitions updated by the ARC. This would require a vote at the next FA.

- ii. Grading systems policy/procedure (brought forward by Dean’s Council, Graduate Council, Honors program, etc.). The proposed new policy & procedure:
 - o Remove Honors grading (per Honors program—not used since 2009).
 - o Add C- to graduate courses (per Graduate Council). FAEC members discussed how adding a C- could impact academic rigor and whether FA should vote on this item. The Graduate Council should probably decide on this issue without a vote from FA.
 - o Discussed changes made to the Repeat-Fail (RF) policy regarding identifying the repeatable course.
 - iii. Interim suspension of students: A student on interim suspension (i.e., awaiting their disciplinary hearing) still retains his/her student status and, as a result, is entitled to attempt to complete coursework while banned physically from College property. (For instance, if the suspended student is found later, after an official hearing, that he/she is not responsible for the incident(s) in question, then the student may not be able to pass the course if he/she had been suspended for a long period of time and had not kept up with coursework). This new policy clarifies faculty responsibilities in the event an interim-suspended student makes a request to faculty for how to complete coursework, etc. whilst they are banned from campus. The policy and procedure clarifies that faculty are not obligated to accommodate such requests if they are inconsistent with course policies stated in the syllabus and other course materials; however, the faculty member may *elect* to make such accommodations.
 1. FAEC discussed the nuances of such practices, including having different requirements for different students (i.e., due to extenuating circumstances – not just interim suspensions, but including illness, etc.). Faculty already have the option to make such accommodations, and the FAEC pointed out the need for consistent application of accommodations (e.g. to avoid the appearance of inequity, subjectivity, or favoritism, leading to grade disputes, etc).
 2. President Rainforth reminded the FAEC members that faculty already have the ability to make accommodations due to extenuating circumstances, and that the proposed policy/procedures simply clarifies for cases where students are interim suspended.
 3. FAEC reps will bring the issue back to their Unit Councils to discuss.
4. Board of Trustees meeting, 4/27(President Rainforth’s report)
 - a. Two minors are approved (Earth Science and Neuroscience)
 - b. Capital improvements report updates: President Rainforth will email the report to FAEC members.

- c. Nepalese students will be offered free housing this summer. The Provost will be emailing faculty who have Nepalese students regarding support services in light of the recent earthquake tragedy.
 - d. Adler building dedication on May 8, 2015 (Sonia Sotomayor is the speaker).
 - e. New language lab for SSHGS, funded by alumna.
 - f. SGA is working with E. Siecke to see if library hours can be extended: R-F-Sa-Su.
 - g. SGA: the 2 TF reps are also on SGA's committee on the schedule.
 - h. PSA: staff can now audit RCNJ classes for free. (President Rainforth clarified that auditing students, including Friends of Ramapo, au pairs, etc., can only register to audit a class after add/drop ends, and can only register for classes that still have vacant seats)
5. Full-Professors Forum Meeting (Rep. Jonathan Lipkin's report)
 - a. Meeting with President Mercer and Provost Barnett last week regarding the FPF's concern that there is a "crisis on campus"—eroding campus community and climate. The FPF will follow-up on these issues with FAEC and FA.
 6. FAEC members discussed shared governance
 - a. Explored ways to improve FAEC's communications to the faculty and better representing the interests/voices of faculty members to the administration.
 - b. Discussed the role and capacity of the Full-Professors Forum in the process of shared-governance.
 7. FAEC members discussed the Class Schedule Task Force and expressed concern whether a plan for the permanent schedule can be done by September 10, 2015.
 8. FAEC member requested an end-year FAEC debrief on FAEC and FA in 2014-2015 with an eye to FAEC and FA 2015-2016.
 9. Discussed the agenda items for the May Faculty Conference
 - a. New Gen Ed proposal: FAEC members raised concern on what should be done in the event that the proposal is not passed by faculty. FAEC discussed possible alternatives, and President Rainforth will discuss further with Prof. Ed Shannon.