

## Faculty Assembly Executive Council Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2015

ASB-230

915 AM -1110 AM

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

Excused absence: none

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guest: Martha Ecker (AFT)

1. Approval of last FAEC minutes (4/1)
  - a. Approved.
2. Today's FA agenda (4/8)
  - a. Secretary position: one nomination--Malavika Sundararajan (ASB).
  - b. Gen Ed update (no vote today, as the report has not yet been sent to the ARC).
  - c. Report on the results of FAEC's survey re: Interim and Future Schedule.
3. FAEC and Schedule Task Force
  - a. Rep. Lorber expressed concerns about who the FAEC rep to the Schedule Task Force should be. She proposed someone more removed from the development of FAEC's survey on the schedule and the FAEC's draft charge for the task force, who also had been less directly involved with tweaking and discussions with the Provost. Expertise could be requested, as needed, by the faculty on the task force.
  - b. Rep. Lorber was reminded that the FAEC rep to the task force is the only non-voting member of the task force.
  - c. FAEC put forward a motion to elect Rebecca Root as FAEC rep to the Schedule Task Force and Bonnie Blake as the alternate rep.
  - d. The motion was seconded and approved.
4. Meeting with Martha Ecker (AFT)
  - a. Discussed the AFT role in the matter of lab credits referred to in the Task Force on Academic Excellence's Report, and suggested that FA and AFT collaborate on this.
  - b. If faculty teaching labs are compensated at 2/3 rate, those faculty teaching labs will end up teaching more than 3 courses per semester.
5. Discussed results from the FAEC survey regarding the interims schedule and future schedule. The preliminary conclusions from the survey are:
  - a. Classes should begin at 830 AM.
  - b. There shouldn't be breaks built into the 2x classes.
  - c. There's support for some 3x classes, but not as many as currently for Fall 2015.
  - d. If there are 3x classes, they should be MWR; 2x evening classes should be MR; 2x evening classes should be available to all faculty members, not just adjuncts.

- e. Student common time should be spread out on multiple days; making Weds afternoon meeting time available to students as well as faculty.
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- 6. Followed-up on Ramapo Baseball Team's deer incident. FAEC suggested that there might have been misinformation flowing around and stressed the importance for the College to inform the College community directly whenever issues arise that are being covered by the media; the College community should be told that there is a story the media is covering, what that story is, what the media is being told, and what steps the College is taking.
    - a. FAEC expressed concern, as it had with a prior incident, that the Administration may not be receiving adequate crisis communication advice.
    - b. FAEC will continue this discussion with President Mercer when he visits FAEC meeting next time.
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- 7. FAEC discussed that much of the academic year was taken by need to focus on academic issues important to the faculty and on deadline; that necessitated more reactive FAEC leadership than had been its intent;
    - a. FAEC restated its intention to be proactive in setting and pursuing agenda items, and expressed its desire to track agenda items it had established at FA in Fall 2014 as important to pursue.
    - b. FAEC also discussed some ways that communication amongst the faculty might be enhanced, and restated the value of transparency.