

Faculty Assembly Executive Council Minutes

September 17, 2014

ASB-230

930-1100 AM

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

Absent:

Secretary: Dean Chen

Guests: President Peter Mercer, Provost Beth Barnett

1. Approve minutes from 9/3 and 9/10
 - a) All approved.
2. The Provost's Council
 - a) A CA rep is needed for Data Analysis group. Ruma Sen will be serving.
 - b) The Provost requested two more faculty members to serve on the Provost's Council, which meets once a month on a Thursday from 1000 AM to 1200 PM. Currently, the Council's members include the unit heads that report to the Provost (including Deans), and the only faculty members are the ARC Chair, and FA President. The Provost is asking for two more faculty members to represent the views of faculty in general.
 - c) FAEC members suggested that one of the reps be affiliated with AFT exec.
 - d) FAEC thought that it might be useful if the Provost could clarify what this year's agenda would be. It would help the FAEC to determine which faculty members would best serve on the Council.
3. Agenda for the FA meeting on September 24
 - a) Committees' report (ARC, CECCo, AFT, GE Task Force II, and WAC). FAEC discussed the reporting time from committees. A committee which wants to report at the FA should explain the action that it is seeking of Faculty Assembly. Reports for informational purposes only will be submitted in writing and uploaded to the Faculty Assembly Website; Requests seeking Faculty Assembly action will state the intended Faculty Assembly action.
 - b) FAEC discussed how FA meeting could be more relevant so that faculty members would attend and participate. It was suggested that this be discussed with the Faculty at the next Faculty Assembly meeting.
 - c) FAEC members suggested that getting a full list of All-College Committees would be necessary so that faculty members would have a more informed idea of what activity is occurring at committees, which committees they might want to serve on, and which committee to comment for input or information. The listing on the Provosts' website is incomplete.
 - d) FAEC discussed whether members of the administration should be present at FA meetings; and whether the default position would be their presence (unless the faculty/FAEC ask them to leave), or whether the default is that they shouldn't be present unless invited. Some faculty members have mentioned that they don't feel free to speak when administrators are in the room.

- e) FA meeting agenda for September 24th will include:
 - 1. What is Faculty Assembly? How can we all make FA more important and relevant? (This item would also be raised at today's Unit Council meeting, 9/17)
 - 2. Call for nominations for BoT Committee reps (election on 10/15)
 - 3. GECCo—call for nominations for Intercultural North America category
 - 4. Data analysis group (announce members). Status report by the group's members.
 - f) FAEC queried status of revisions to Faculty Handbook.
4. Meeting with Provost Barnett
- a) Provost's Council focuses on policy and procedural matters and curriculum changes. The Provost clarified that since AFT is not a policymaking body, she will not ask for its participation on the Provost's Council.
 - b) The Provost stated that she would continue to work with the FAEC Subcommittee on Shared Governance.
 - c) The Provost has worked with the AFT on changing the procedures of reappointment and tenure. The new faculty (coming in Fall 2014) will be following the extended tenure procedure. The changes have not been finalized yet.
5. Meeting with President Peter Mercer
- a) FA President (Emma) introduced the new FAEC and asked the President about his vision in working with the new FAEC and also on shared-governance.
 - b) President Mercer stated that the Administration and FAEC and FA have had a solid relationship. Cooperation and collegiality have been robust. The President thinks that these values are important and would like to continue and deepen these traditions.
 - c) FAEC members also queried the role of the BoT with respect to the administration and faculty.
 - d) The President noted that the BoT is very anxious to participate (though not administer); it is eager to work with the President and Provost.
 - e) The BoT always welcomes FAEC members' attendance in the Board meetings.
 - f) The President talked about the budget issue and reducing the structural deficits.
 - g) FAEC and the President also discussed on ways to improve shared-governance and to promote better interactions and communications between the Administration and students.