

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2015
ASB: 007-008
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Attendees: Emma Rainforth, Rebecca Root, Ken McMurdy, Susan Kurzmann, Roark Atkinson, Susan Eisner, Bonnie Blake, Renata Gangemi

Excused Absences: Eva Ogens

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Provost Beth Barnett and Vice Provost for Curriculum and Assessment Eric Daffron

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from December 9, 2015
 - a. Approved.

- 2) FA President Emma Rainforth's Report
 - a. The Experiential Learning Task force is in the process of evaluating its role within the new Gen Ed curriculum. The committee is also debating the parameters of experiential learning within the programs. For example, does experiential learning need to occur off campus?
 - b. Vice Provost Daffron has sent an email seeking volunteers for Gen Ed implementation (GEIT) working groups. There are questions about the proposed structure of GEIT that will be discussed with Provost Barnett and Vice Provost Daffron during their visit with FAEC later this morning.
 - c. There have been no updates from the Service Task Force.

- 3) Provost Barnett and Vice Provost Daffron - GEIT
 - a. Vice Provost Daffron reported that he is already receiving requests by faculty to serve on several of the announced GEIT working groups. He indicated that the ideal group member (i.e., volunteer) is someone with an interest in teaching in the new Gen Ed program. The steering committee will select a facilitator for each working group, who should be an individual with good leadership skills and some knowledge of assessment and course design.
 - i. An FAEC member expressed the need for greater clarity and concreteness regarding the structure of GEIT and also regarding the process within which it interfaces with other standing committees with curricular jurisdiction. Vice Provost Daffron agreed to create and distribute an executive summary.
 - b. Provost Barnett stated that the working groups will need to think about future assessment needs while creating new learning experiences.
 - c. There were several questions about the proposed GEIT governance group and its relationship to the FAEC (and other FA committees).

- i. That governance group may need to revisit GECCO's charge. The group may also need to review/revise the process of approving Gen Ed courses (before they go to ARC).
 - ii. The governance group will have to construct some type of "convening group" structure for the Gen Ed categories.
 - iii. The Provost envisions most governance group discussions will occur at Dean's Council. She said that the FAEC (FA President and other FAEC members designated by the FA President) may attend these discussions.
 - 1. FAEC queried whether these Dean's Council meeting can be scheduled before next semester's FAEC meetings (e.g., 9am-10am on Wednesdays) to coordinate with FAEC's schedule? Provost Barnett will check with Deans to see if such scheduling is possible.
 - d. Provost Barnett indicated that she does not want more than approximately a dozen courses in each new Gen Ed category.
 - e. There was discussion about balancing academic freedom with some level of standardization in courses in the Gen Ed program with shared learning outcomes; this may be especially helpful in courses taught by adjuncts.
 - i. Gen Ed courses taught by different faculty, perhaps from different units, will be united by a common set of learning outcomes. Does this mean that different faculty may use different readings for the same course?
 - 1. A faculty member's choice of required readings is an element of academic freedom. Nevertheless, convening groups have a right to create some level of standardization.
 - 2. The "convening group-like" structural arrangements that will govern common Gen Ed courses may have some say over course reading selections. The Gen Ed implementation working groups may create some type of governance mechanism to work these things out.
 - ii. The working groups will also have to carefully calibrate the specificity of learning outcomes of common Gen Ed courses. Outcomes will need to be specific enough to ensure that students will be provided with the same content. However, outcomes will also need to be broad enough to enable multiple faculty members to teach these courses (as the number of courses in each category will be limited).
- 4) Provost Barnett – Other Announcements
- a. Cabinet has decided to prohibit staff from teaching during weekdays from 8:30am to 4:30pm (with some limited exceptions – e.g., staff with contractual teaching duties). Deans are considered faculty members, not staff, and therefore excluded from this policy.
 - b. Provost Barnett was asked about the Service Task Force. She has not yet heard back from the group. However, she will follow up to see where

they are at. When asked about the status of revisions to the Faculty Handbook, the Provost stated that this is not a responsibility of the FAEC, but rather a responsibility of AFT.

- 5) Announcements for Today's Unit Council
 - a. Make sure that the unit's Experiential Learning Task Force representative has time to speak.
 - b. Elect representatives (primary + alternate) for the Library Renovations Task Force.
 - c. Encourage faculty to volunteer for GEIT working groups.
 - i. Working groups are strictly for the implementation phase (governance and steering committee will be around a little longer), and are envisioned as Spring 2016 entities. GECCO and ARC will be the permanent bodies managing Gen Ed after implementation.
 - d. Remind faculty to mail their ballots for FA President to FA Secretary Mark Skowronski by the end of the week.
 - e. Remind faculty of FAEC's Dean's survey.

- 6) Other Announcements
 - a. Agenda item for tomorrow's meeting with the Provost is graduate teaching load.
 - b. Next semester's FAEC meetings will be on Wednesdays, 10:00am to 12:00pm, in ASB 007-008 (first meeting – Jan 20).