

## **Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes**

**December 9, 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, Eva Ogens, Renata Gangemi

**No Absences**

**Secretary:** Mark Skowronski

**Guests:** Prof. Sandra Suarez, Prof. Leah Warner, Prof. Kathy Zeno

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from December 2, 2015.
  - A. Approved.
  
- 2) Guests: Prof. Sandra Suarez, Prof. Leah Warner, Prof. Kathy Zeno (DAC)
  - A. Representatives from DAC spoke with the FAEC about campus climate issues and the administration's response. Some members of the Ramapo community feel that the campus climate is not as inclusive or respectful of diversity as it could and should be. There are also concerns that the administration is not adequately responding to these issues, or related complaints, in a timely fashion.
    - a. During these discussions, the DAC representatives referred to several documents (e.g., talking points) that they shared with the administration. The representatives have agreed to supply the FAEC with these documents.
  - B. The DAC representatives were asked for actions that the FAEC could take to assist DAC with addressing its concerns and achieving its goals. They indicated that FAEC could help them 1) improve communication with the administration, 2) recruit faculty members to participate in DAC-lead training activities, and 3) help address diversity issues with faculty recruitment and hiring.
  - C. The diversity-related consequences of Ramapo's limited public transportation options were briefly discussed. An FAEC member announced that a student is engaged in a project to lobby state government to address this issue.
  
- 3) Discussion about Last Wednesday's Race and Inclusion Town Hall
  - A. The FAEC discussed ways that Dec 2's Town Hall meeting on Race and Inclusion could have been improved (with the goal of making future meetings more effective). Several members expressed the value of using a small group design rather than conducting the meeting auditorium style. The use of small groups is likely to encourage greater participation. It was also

suggested that DAC and other concerned stakeholders be included in a more central way (as opposed to focusing primarily on the President's cabinet). Several members expressed the need for better moderation of the discussion.

4) Faculty In-Service, January 2016

A. The FAEC has voted not to hold a Faculty In-Service day on January, 14.

5) Discussion about Proposed MSN Concentration

A. ARC has expressed concerns about the proposed MSN concentration's need for graduate faculty and how the use of such faculty may conflict with current college policy. Members of the FAEC are also concerned about the use of graduate faculty, or (non-tenure track) "clinical" instructors and the precedent this decision may set. There are also concerns about the proposal's alignment with Ramapo's strategic plan that states that graduate programs should only be offered in areas in which there is existing undergraduate expertise and anticipated high demand. Further discussion is needed.

6) FA President Rainforth's Report

A. Prof. Rainforth met with President Mercer earlier in the week. He indicated that the FA Library Renovations Task Force, and its future white paper, is still necessary. Even if the college is able to secure capital funding from the state, fundraising will be necessary.

a. FAEC members should have their units elect representatives (primary + alternate) for the Library Renovations Task Force at next week's Unit Council.

B. The Provost and Vice Provost (for Curriculum and Assessment) will visit the FAEC next week to discuss the GEIT implementation plan. Faculty and staff will also be recruited to serve on several GEIT-related working groups. An email will likely be sent to faculty next week.

C. There are no updates from the Service Task Force.

a. The FAEC may need to discuss this with the Provost at her next visit.

D. The Scheduling Task Force is progressing as planned.

E. A (student) representative from the SGA should be invited to attend a future FAEC meeting. Next week was suggested, but there are concerns that next week's meeting may conflict with student exam preparations.

F. Ballots for the FA presidential race will be mailed out in the next day or two. Ballots will be returned, by interoffice mail, to the FA secretary. The secretary will count the ballots on Dec 21.

G. A link to the Deans Survey has been sent to faculty.

7) Other Items

- A. The limited number of full professor slots for next year's promotion competition may create concerns with faculty. How was the number of slots determined? Was AFT consulted? Perhaps these concerns can be discussed with President Mercer at his next visit (understanding that personnel matters are primarily the purview of AFT).