

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2015
ASB: 007-008
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Attendees: Emma Rainforth, Rebecca Root, Ken McMurdy, Eva Ogens, Roark Atkinson, Susan Eisner, Bonnie Blake, Jonathan Lipkin, Susan Kurzmann

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: SGA President – Alec Weissman

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from January 20, 2016
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Updates from Unit Council
 - a. The FAEC discussed faculty reactions to the proposed modification of the undergraduate teaching load policy. Most FAEC reps report that there was little faculty reaction to the proposed changes at their unit council meetings. In one unit, there was a discussion about whether the proposed policy change might create a separate tier of faculty members who are treated and compensated differently than others. The Assistant Dean of Nursing Programs informed her unit that the policy change was necessary for licensing purposes (for the proposed nurse practitioner MSN track).
 - b. Several units discussed the proposed policy to allow modifications to degree requirements for students with documented disabilities (Policy/Procedure 300-WW). The Director of the Office of Specialized Services spoke at several unit council meetings about the proposal, describing the need to have fair process for making such decisions.
 - i. The FAEC had a lengthy discussion about whether the proposed policy and others (such as the “attendance policy modification contracts” that have been distributed by OSS this semester) may exceed an appropriate level of reasonable accommodation. There was also discussion about the potential for students to abuse the procedural rights outlined in the proposed policy.
 - ii. Can the Director of the Office of Specialized Services visit the FAEC?
 - iii. President Rainforth will ask that the review period for the proposed policy be extended for 30 days.

- 3) Student Governance Association (SGA) President - Alec Weissman
 - a. SGA President Weissman expressed SGA concerns about 1) the increased number of hybrid courses in Fall 2015, many of which were not marked as hybrid on the official course schedule (and thus surprising the students on the first day of classes) and 2) whether faculty carefully review feedback from student opinion surveys to improve teaching effectiveness

and course design. Mr. Weissman also indicated that the SGA is working hard to identify ways of increasing student involvement in student governance and campus events.

- b. The FAEC and Mr. Weissman discussed the town hall on race and inclusion initiated by President Mercer in the fall. There was agreement that the event could have been better constructed to encourage discussion (e.g., using small groups). Mr. Weissman reports that many students would like the college to respond more promptly to national events related to race. There is also concern about the relatively small percentage of minority students at Ramapo. Although the SGA has not discussed concerns about rising islamophobia in reaction to recent national/international events, the SGA is open to working with other campus groups to address this issue (e.g., teach-ins).
 - c. Although there is less student anger about scheduling changes than there was last year, many students are irked that the schedule appears to change each semester. *It was pointed out that the current schedule will remain in place with no changes through Spring 2017.*
 - d. Interactions with campus Public Safety continue to be a source of student frustration.
 - e. The SGA continues to discuss the need for more on-campus venues for socialization and recreation.
 - f. Mr. Weissman was informed that the Library Renovations Task Force will have two members from the SGA. Renovations to the library may provide additional venues for students to congregate on campus.
- 4) Other Items
- a. There is some concern among the faculty about the small number of opportunities for promotion to full professor. Is the college approaching a state-mandated maximum number of full professors (e.g., 25% of the faculty)? Perhaps we can ask Provost Barnett the next time she visits the FAEC.
 - b. Must the search for a new dean be external? There are conflicting reports.
 - c. The GECCo charge needs to be revisited in light of the new GE program. Perhaps this can be discussed at the February 17 FA meeting?
 - d. Next week the FAEC will meet with the GEIT Governance Committee at 11am (after the FAEC's weekly 9:30am meeting--in the York Room).