

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2016
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:45am

Attendees: Roark Atkinson, Renata Gangemi, Tae Kwak, Christina Connor, Cristina Perez, Gladys Torres-Baumgarten, Kathryn Zeno, Eva Ogens, Kim Lorber

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Ken McMurdy

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from October 5, 2016.
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Provost Task Forces
 - a. As requested by the FA, the Provost will convene two task forces. Membership will consist of administrators and faculty.
 - i. Online Course Strategic Planning Task Force. This task force will review the existing online teaching manual, minimum enrollments for summer online courses, and other issues re: online education at Ramapo.
 - ii. Task Force on Shared Governance. The Provost believes it is too ambitious to formulate a definition. However, she wants to outline the scope of shared governance at Ramapo and establish principles of agreement.
 1. Prof. Ken McMurdy agrees to serve on this task force.

- 3) FA Communications Resolution
 - a. The Provost has agreed that she will respond in writing to FA task force and committee reports when they are 1) directed to the Provost and 2) conclude with delineated proposals.
 - i. Task forces and committees should make every attempt to have bullet-pointed recommendations (to elicit a response from the Provost).
 - b. Can we start tracking the reports of task forces so we can determine if a response was provided?
 - c. Can we pass motions at FA to elicit the administration's response to the following:
 1. TAS Lab Course Credit Hours Proposal
 2. FA Library Renovations Task Force Report
 3. Shared Governance Definition from AAUP (1966). The definition is very general (it will need to be made specific to Ramapo College).
 - a. If the Provost does not accept this widely held definition of shared governance, she should articulate an alternative.

- i. There has to be an avenue through which the FAEC can talk to the accreditors if our shared governance efforts are not successful.

4) Discussion - TAS Lab Course Credit Hours

- a. Management concerns -- this issue should not have been handled by a subset of TAS or an isolated group of faculty. If it affects curriculum, the whole faculty (FA) should be involved/consulted.
- b. TAS lab course credits were discussed in the TFAEE report. Has the Provost responded to the TFAEE report?
- c. IF TAS faculty wants the FA to take action, let Prof. Kwak know.

5) Ken McMurdy - Shared Governance Subcommittee (prior FAEC)

- a. The subcommittee evaluated shared governance at Ramapo.
- b. The subcommittee attempted to compose a "constitution-like" document that outlines the types of decisions that are the purview of the administration versus those that are primarily controlled by faculty (and a category of administration-controlled items that require meaningful consultation with faculty -- i.e., the "secondary" category). This "secondary" category has been a significant point of contention between the Provost and the subcommittee.
 - i. Perhaps there can be safeguards for the Provost regarding this secondary category. If the Provost demonstrates that she properly weighed and considered faculty input (i.e., meaningful consultation) on these issues, then she has acted consistently with shared governance principles.
 - 1. Perhaps a primary, secondary, and tertiary model should be developed for each stakeholder – not just faculty.
 - 2. Ideally, the secondary category involves "shared decision making", although the Provost technically retains ultimate authority on such matters.
 - 3. The admin cannot "count" having one or two faculty members on a committee as evidence of meaningful consultation.

6) Other Items

- a. What ever happened with the FA Deans survey? Can we get the format of the prior FA Deans survey – Prof Rainforth?
- b. In order to promote shared governance and to recognize FA as the representative body of ALL faculty, the unofficial "Full Professors' Forum" should not convene unless the existing governance structure breaks down, and only for discrete, extraordinary measures (e.g. in the past, votes of no confidence were held concerning the College President and/or Provost).
- c. The President's library renovations task force has still not been charged.
- d. When was the last time Ramapo measured/assessed Faculty morale (e.g., a campus climate survey)?
- e. Can we get a copy of the prior FA Budget Subcommittee report?
 - i. Would it make sense to have another FA Budget Subcommittee?

- f. When will we know the number of full professor slots for next year?
 - i. Can we get a list of every faculty by rank?
- g. Grant Thornton may be coming back to Ramapo.