

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2016
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:45am

Attendees: Renata Gangemi, Tae Kwak, Christina Connor, Kim Lorber, Cristina Perez, Kathryn Zeno, Roark Atkinson

Absent: Gladys Torres-Baumgarten, Eva Ogens

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Emergency Student Relief Committee – Jaime Velazquez (SGA)

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from October 19, 2016.
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Visit by SGA Rep Jaime Velazquez – Emergency Student Relief Committee
 - a. Ramapo’s Student Government Association (SGA) is exploring support systems for homeless/food insecure students. The SGA passed legislation to convene an Emergency Student Relief Committee, with the expectation that this will be a campus-wide committee that organizes resources and raises funds (e.g., food drives). The SGA is also reaching out to a NJ Assembly member for guidance. Mr. Velazquez and the FAEC brainstormed several issues this committee may want to explore, such as:
 - i. Participating in National Homeless Awareness Week events (Nov 14-18).
 - ii. Organizing a panel on homelessness among the college population.
 - iii. Procuring pre-paid flex cards for homeless students.
 1. Can students donate leftover points?
 - iv. Using vacant Residence Life space for temporary housing.
 1. Collecting linen and toiletry donations.
 - v. Identifying ways that students in need can obtain aid without stigma.
 - vi. Involving the College’ Ombuds Office.
 - b. The FAEC is willing to support the SGA with this initiative (including a possible donation from FAEC’s morale fund).
 - c. Are Ramapo Foundation grants available for this purpose?
 - d. What about health insurance for uninsured students?

- 3) Gen Ed Course Renumbering.
 - a. Revised Gen Ed courses may be renumbered. Many faculty are concerned that this is unnecessarily disruptive. For example, such changes may cause student confusion. Reading transcripts may become more difficult. It is also possible that we may run out of numbers (as the registrar retires previously used numbers). Courses that already have numbers and courses that double count as major/program requirements will experience the most disruption by renumbering.
 - i. Can courses be cross-listed more efficiently?

ii. The FAEC will ask the Provost and Registrar for additional clarification.

4) GECCO

- a. The FAEC will invite the chair of GECCO to visit our next FAEC meeting. We would like an update on the processing of of Gen Ed course applications.
- b. GECCO will also be asked to provide an update at our next FA meeting.

5) TAS Lab Course Credits

- a. Last academic year, TAS faculty were concerned that they had not received a formal response, in writing, from the administration about their lab credit proposal.
- b. Bio labs have been submitted to ARC with 1.5 credits. Other NJ schools use fractional lab credits. FAEC considers this a curricular area, in which the relevant Convening Groups and faculty know how to best offer their labs. We will support the lab faculty's best judgment.
- c. The next faculty forum may be an opportunity to update the FA on this issue.

6) The Grant Thornton Report

- a. The FAEC received a redacted version of the Grant Thornton report (through the efforts of Martha Ecker and the union). The FAEC had asked to see the report's conclusions and recommendations; however, all recommendations and rationale were redacted.
- b. The FAEC is concerned about unilateral cost-cutting ("belt-tightening" measures) made by the administration – e.g., professional staff contract changes -- based on recommendations we cannot see, without any consultation or explanation.

7) Other Issues

- a. Can the College's Emergency Preparedness Committee plan be presented at FA?
- b. Are affected faculty members warned by public safety when students make threats of violence (or engage in possible acts of stalking)?
- c. Do administrators hired with faculty status affect the number of associate/full professor slots available for promotion? Can we know which administrators hold such status and their ranks?