

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2016
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:40am

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

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Eric Karlin

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from September 28, 2016.
 - a. Approved without objections/abstentions.

- 2) Discussion item – online course development funding.
 - a. Some members of the faculty are concerned about increases in stipend amounts for developing online courses. Such funding may increase the number of online courses. However, there remains a lack of agreement about the proper role of online courses at Ramapo College. There are also specific concerns about online courses that have not been resolved. For example:
 - i. For which subject areas are online courses most appropriate?
 - ii. How can we maintain academic integrity in an online environment (e.g., student identity issues)?
 - iii. To what extent is the administration’s push for more online courses motivated by profit?
 - iv. Is the Moodle platform adequate for expanding online education?

- 3) Discussion item – shared governance.
 - a. Ramapo’s prior *Middle States*’ report mentioned problems with shared governance eight times. This report provides a strong rationale for establishing a written definition of shared governance that is accepted by both the faculty and administration.
 - i. The Provost has informed Prof. Kwak that she must ask the President’s cabinet to convene a shared governance definitional task force (i.e., she cannot charge this task force on her own authority).
 - b. Will one definition of shared governance be enough? The Provost did not appear to share the faculty’s understanding of shared governance outlined in the prior FA Shared Governance Subcommittee’s report.
 - c. The faculty would like the administration to provide written responses to reports and recommendations made by FA task forces. A formal motion on this matter will be voted on at today’s FA meeting.

- 4) Discussion item – TAS lab course credit changes.
 - a. Proposed changes to lab course credits will be discussed as an informational item in today's faculty forum. Prof. Atkinson and several TAS faculty members will deliver a presentation outlining:
 - i. The current allocation of credits for lab courses.
 - ii. The administration's proposal to reduce the length of lab courses and to pay lab course faculty two-thirds the faculty hours of other courses.
 - iii. The potential impact on
 1. the quality of the science curriculum.
 2. adjunct faculty recruitment and quality.
 3. setting a precedent that may affect other programs and units.
 - b. The faculty forum will be an opportunity to assess whether non-TAS faculty are in alignment with TAS faculty on this issue.
 - c. Prof. Atkinson and Prof. Karlin gave a dry run of their presentation.

- 5) Discussion issue – College Finances.
 - a. Grant Thornton report.
 - i. Can the FAEC receive a sanitized version of the Grant Thornton report (or perhaps the conclusion of the report)? The FAEC is concerned about administrative bloat and the effectiveness of the Ramapo Foundation.
 - ii. Issues such as the furloughing of professional staff are faculty concerns (e.g., campus morale, shared governance).
 - iii. Should the FAEC reconvene the FA Budget Committee – as a standing committee?
 - b. Faculty lines.
 - i. Are full professor lines being limited to weaken faculty power?
 - ii. There are concerns about administrators joining Ramapo as full professors.
 1. Eventually, the FAEC may want a voting item requires some faculty voice in the hiring of administrators with faculty status.

- 6) Item for future discussion.
 - a. Professionalism of the Writing Center's tutoring service.
 - i. There have been complaints about the quality of student tutors. In addition, the Writing Center shuts down during final exams (when many term papers are due). The center appears to suffer from inadequate funding. Perhaps Prof. Kwak can meet with WAC to discuss ways of seeking additional funding.