

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2016
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:30am

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

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Provost Beth Barnett, Vice Provost Eric Daffron

- 1) President Tae Kwak's Report
 - a) Summer Feedback from Faculty
 - i) It has been suggested that Faculty Fora be held before Faculty Assembly (FA) meetings (to facilitate discussion before FA votes). Prof. Kwak will ask administrators to attend FA meetings after these fora.
 - ii) In response to faculty feedback, Prof. Kwak has adjusted the meeting schedule to make convening group meeting times more consistent.
 - b) Campus Climate
 - i) Prof. Kwak discussed his perception that faculty morale is in decline. There is also a need to hold the administration accountable for following through on initiatives and communicating the rationale for controversial decisions.
 - c) Shared Governance
 - i) Ramapo College does not have a college-wide definition of shared governance. Prof. Kwak suggests that we expand the membership of FA's Shared Governance Subcommittee (with representatives from each school). A goal of this group should be the negotiation of a college-wide definition that can be posted to Ramapo's website (similar to other NJ colleges—e.g., TCNJ). Although the subcommittee will continue to work closely with the Provost, it may ultimately want to include the President and members of the Board of Trustees. Ken McMurdy (TAS) has agreed to assist the FAEC with this process. The FAEC may also want to explore recruiting experts on shared governance to speak at a FA meeting.
- 2) Guests: Provost Beth Barnett and Vice Provost Eric Daffron
 - a) Gen Ed Implementation
 - i) ARC will begin approving courses for the new Gen Ed program this year. In order to maintain a reasonable workload for ARC, Vice Provost Daffron has proposed a plan to delay ARC approval of distribution category courses until Spring, 2017. However, the approval of keystone courses will occur Fall, 2016 as planned. This proposal will require some course substitutions for a small subset of transfer students in the 2017-18 academic year.
 - ii) ARC checklists for distribution category courses will be published soon.

- iii) All four year plans will have to be revised for the Fall, 2017 semester. The catalog will also need updating.
- iv) Per last year's agreement, there will be no fixed Gen Ed category caps. In lieu of caps, Gen Ed courses will be approved using shared criteria.
- v) Major courses that currently double count as Gen Ed courses will need to be reviewed by ARC (to determine if they fit the new Gen Ed program).
- b) TAS Lab Credits
 - i) Prof. Kwak asked Provost Barnett if the TAS lab credit issue has been resolved. Provost Barnett indicated her belief that it has.
- c) Campus Events
 - i) Some faculty members have expressed concern that the elimination of the CEC has reduced attendance at campus events. Perhaps data from students' swipe cards can provide clarity on this issue.
 - ii) Beth announced that the College will continue moving towards a focus on high-impact activities (e.g., experiential learning).
- d) Vice Provost for Curriculum and Assessment
 - i) Provost Barnett announced the Dr. Eric Daffron has chosen to leave the Vice Provost position at the end of the academic year.
- 3) FAEC Discussion – Gen Ed Implementation
 - a) Much of the faculty is perplexed by the need to rush implementation of the new Gen Ed program. Why must this program be implemented in Fall, 2017? The FAEC is unclear if compliance with *Middle States* requires such a fast implementation. Are there alternatives?
 - i) Can the FAEC speak with a *Middle States* liaison (re: assessment data requirements)? Can we recruit a *Middle States* representative to speak at a FA meeting?
- 4) FAEC Meetings – Transparency
 - a) FAEC should try to be as transparent as possible.
- 5) President's Library Task Force
 - a) The FAEC discussed having a faculty rep. on the President's library task force. Prof. Kwak will ask President Mercer if we can designate alternates.
 - b) There is a "space planning committee" that is separate from the President's library task force. It is unclear how the two committees will work together.
- 6) The FAEC would like to understand the search process for high-level administrative positions (e.g., VP-Curriculum and Assessment, AVP-Academic Affairs).