

**Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes**  
**February 22, 2017**  
**SSHGS Conference Room**  
**10:00am to 12:00pm**

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

**Secretary:** Mark Skowronski

**Guests:** Provost Beth Barnett

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from February 15, 2017.
  - a. Approved.
  
- 2) Visit by Provost Barnett.
  - a. Library Renovations.
    - i. The FAEC is concerned about the College's decision to renovate the existing George T. Potter library. The current renovation plans appear to severely limit access to essential library resources for several years. Building a new structure would appear to be a far less disruptive and more sustainable option.
      1. The FAEC is skeptical of the assumption that state funding would preclude the College from modifying its original renovation plans and deciding to build a new structure. Historical note: the College of New Jersey had originally decided to renovate its existing library, but ultimately decided to build a new structure.
      2. Is it still possible for the College to back out of the current renovation plans, if renovation proves more expensive than new building?
      3. There are many outstanding questions about swing space (for current collections). For example, who will fund the costs of swing spaces? Will these costs come out of the library's budget? Where will it be?
      4. If the library will be inaccessible for several years, is it ethical for campus tours to show prospective students the current library? Is Enrollment Management aware that that the library will be closed for several years during the renovations?
      5. What will be the status of the Writing Center during the renovations? The center is housed in the library.
      6. It is important that the library does not get burdened with excessive maintenance costs post renovations.
    - ii. Provost Barnett's response:
      - a. The FAEC may want to meet with the Vice President of Administration and Finance, who is coordinating the renovations, to discuss these concerns.

- i. For example, she may be able to discuss the availability of “buildable space” on campus as well as any state funding restrictions on building (versus renovating).
    - b. Course Credit Hours. The Provost stated that the “Unit Plan is dead”. As a result, the Provost asked that the faculty consider several issues that deal with credit hours (or credit units).
      - i. Ramapo majors are generally limited to 68 credits. This major credit cap, in a context of 4-credit courses, has created challenges for certain programs (e.g., lab sciences). The Provost would like the College to start having discussions about what we want our programs to look like. Do we want programs to have alternatives to 4-credit courses?
        - 1. Lab credit sciences have been granted a temporary exemption from the 4-credit course requirement. Some lab science courses will be offered as less than 4 credits next year.
        - 2. The FA (including ARC) and Dean’s Council might want to begin the process of reflecting on our 4-credit course model. More broadly, how do we want to distribute the credit hours that we have?
          - a. Any issues about faculty workload will have to be negotiated by AFT.
        - 3. The Provost would like to emphasize that she is not introducing this issue to move the College to a 3-credit system.
        - 4. Although there are no current discussions about reducing the 128 credit requirement, the College may face pressures to move in that direction in the future.
    - c. Gen Ed Implementation
      - i. The Gen Ed program is scheduled for Fall 18.
      - ii. The Center for Student Success has been asked to front load Gen Ed courses for new students next year.
    - d. Student Engagement and Co-curricular Transcripts.
      - i. Research suggests that more engaged students are more likely to be successful in college. To incentivize “engagement”, some schools are offering co-curricular transcripts. Such programs will typically transcribe 6-8 high impact activities. Ramapo is exploring and discussing the feasibility of offering such a service.
- 3) Sanctuary Campus issue
- a. Several student groups have expressed an interest in making Ramapo a sanctuary campus. At our next FA, we will ask the faculty to endorse the creation of a faculty task force to support students’ efforts. There may already be informal faculty groups working on this issue.
    - i. The FAEC does not share the College President’s concern that federal funding would be at risk if Ramapo became a sanctuary campus.

- 4) Scientific Inquiry Gen Ed Category.
  - a. Ultimately, GECCo and ARC have the authority to decide which courses belong in the Scientific Inquiry Gen Ed category (i.e., whether a course's outcomes fit Scientific Inquiry).
  
- 5) Next week, the Director of Employee Relations and the College President will visit the FAEC.