

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:30am

Attendees: Tae Kwak, Christina Connor, Cristina Perez, Kim Lorber, Kathryn Zeno, Eva Ogens, Roark Atkinson

Absent: Gladys Torres-Baumgarten, Renata Gangemi

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: President Peter Mercer

1. Approval of FAEC minutes from March 1, 2017.
 - a. Approved.

2. Visit by President Mercer.
 - a. Library Renovations.
 - i. President Mercer was asked if Ramapo could build a new library, rather than renovate our existing structure. He stated that such an undertaking would require a new focus and might compromise the state funding the College has received for the project (the state wants funding to be used for its intended purposes). President Mercer does not believe that the current library is beyond renovation. The architects say there is a lot worth salvaging in the existing building.
 - ii. The current library will be inaccessible during the renovation process. The FAEC expressed its concern that the absence of a library will adversely affect the College (including its recruitment and enrollment goals). The President reminded the group that such concerns were also expressed during the G wing renovations. Nevertheless, the College was able to function reasonably well during that process and the community was happy with the results.
 - iii. We must develop a plan to continue library services during the renovations. President Mercer: we should know more in the next few months. Fall 2017 would seem a bit early for a transition to swing space.
 - iv. President Mercer was happy to visit Williams College, with several other faculty and staff, to discuss their experience renovating their library.
 - b. The FAEC remains concerned about the state of emergency preparedness at the College. Is there a way we can get funding to get working locks on office/classroom doors and shades on office/classroom windows? As our current emergency preparedness plan calls for the use of locks and shades in the event of an active shooter, the College should provide these resources. President Mercer said he will discuss this issue with Cabinet.
 - i. President Mercer reassured the FAEC that the Emergency Preparedness Committee is being reconstituted.
 - c. The Mahwah Police Department has been informed that Ramapo will not be

sharing information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement unless required by law or a specific court order.

3. Gen Ed Scientific Inquiry. The chair of the (now defunct) Gen Ed design committee has communicated to Prof. Kwak that the committee did not intend to restrict courses in the Scientific Inquiry categories to those taught TAS faculty.
 - a. The Gen Ed program has a three year review cycle. Therefore, there is already a process to remedy any problems with Gen Ed category restrictions/requirements.
4. Prof. Kwak has been receiving requests from students for faculty help taking action on several political causes/issues. The “safe haven” advisory council (discussed at our last FA meeting) might be a vehicle for providing such help.
 - a. It may be possible to allow students to donate unused Flex dollars to students in need.
5. Announcements for Unit Council
 - a. Seeking faculty volunteers for a “safe haven” advisory council (email Prof. Kwak).
 - b. Seeking nominations for the FA/FAEC secretary (email Prof. Skowronski).
 - c. Solicit feedback on the mission for the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Compliance (i.e., Nicole Morgan-Agard’s FA presentation).

