

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2016
ASB: 007-008
9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Attendees: Emma Rainforth, Rebecca Root, Jonathan Lipkin, Ken McMurdy, Susan Kurzmann, Roark Atkinson, Eva Ogens, Susan Eisner, Bonnie Blake

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Incoming FAEC members (Kim Lorber, Renata Gangemi, Tae Kwak, Christina Connor, Christina Perez), President Peter Mercer, Provost Beth Barnett

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from May 4, 2016
 - a. Approved.

- 2) Today's FA Meeting
 - a. Vote to recommend Class Schedule (starting AY 17/18). The vote may be contentious due to the extended common hour time. The schedule also proposes shorter inter-class breaks and provides some flexibility for labs starting at 2:15pm. There is no mention of the length of labs in the report.
 - b. Vote to endorse Rigor report.
 - c. Vote to approve new GECCo charge.
 - d. There will be two members of the Board of Trustees observing today's FA meeting.

- 3) Next Year's GECCo Chair
 - a. There was a discussion about whether the chair should (in general) be appointed by the Provost (as there is release time involved), or decided by the FA/FAEC. We concluded that for next year for continuity the chair would best be the current chair (S. Padhy), if that is amenable to that person; FA President will consult S. Padhy. GECCo will decide the optimal process for selecting/electing a chair in future years, and the Charge document will indicate that each Coordinator position be elected by the FA.

- 4) Shared Governance Subcommittee
 - a. Prof. McMurdy announced his willingness to continue working on the Shared Governance Subcommittee next year (his term on the FAEC ends this year).
 - b. Faculty and the Administration continue to have differing perspectives about the boundaries between curricular and scheduling issues.
 - c. The FAEC continues to feel it is important to have a document that affirms Shared Governance as a core principle and practice at

Ramapo College and describes that in writing so it is both clear to all and consistent despite personnel changes; it is important that Shared Governance be defined, as in practice it can take many forms ranging from informing, to consulting, to seeking consensus, to delegating/empowering; it is also recommended to continue delineating how the various issues that fall within the perimeters of Shared Governance are appropriate for which of those forms of Shared Governance.

- i. Words such as “consultation” may be problematic. Perhaps AAUP and Middle States offers more specific language regarding Shared Governance principles and practices.
- ii. It may be helpful to talk with faculty leadership at other schools regarding their Shared Governance practices. It was recommended that the Shared Governance Subcommittee consult those who have worked on this in the past, including past FA President Eric Karlin, who outreached to other schools for this purpose when he served as President. Other faculty who have had prior experience with this were also mentioned as potential members of next year’s Shared Governance Subcommittee.
- iii. The current Shared Governance Subcommittee will draft a one paragraph statement of “next steps” for negotiating this shared governance document.

5) Guest: Provost Beth Barnett

- a. If the proposed class schedule is endorsed by FA, it will be shared with Cabinet. The schedule will be examined from academic affairs and student affairs perspectives.
- b. The Fall 2016 calendar will need modifications. Specifically, the Wednesday before Thanksgiving will operate on a Friday schedule. There will also be no Reading Day.
- c. The Provost agrees that she and the FAEC should revive discussions about a shared governance document.
- d. ASB Dean Search
 - i. Phone interviews are likely in late May. Campus visits are likely to occur in early June.
 - ii. If a candidate is selected, September 1 is a likely start date. As the current ASB Dean’s term expires June 30, ASB will be managed by the Provost’s office during July and August.
 - iii. If a candidate is not selected, or a September 1 start date is not doable for a selected candidate, an interim Dean will be appointed for September 1.
- e. Agenda for next year
 - i. Convening groups will be finding ways to advance Gen Ed learning goals.

- ii. The College will continue to pursue the Strategic Plan's goals for the next two years (e.g., experiential learning, international experience).
- iii. Co-curricular transcripts will be explored.
- iv. There continues to be a need to define/clarify service (e.g., Service Task Force).

6) Guest: President Peter Mercer

- a. We need to rethink how we position ourselves in the market.
 - i. Private schools are reducing tuition. Comparable public schools are offering generous financial packages. Out-of-state tuition in many states is less expensive.
 - ii. Ramapo's 4-year graduation rate is very competitive within NJ.
- b. There is no update on the President's committee for library renovations. There is no point enlisting people until the College has more information about funding.
- c. The increase in enrolment numbers mentioned in the Board of Trustees email (re: President Mercer's reappointment) should be considered a very rough 10-year estimate. Graduate enrollment is the largest component of this rough estimate.
- d. The College does not have the final report from the Structural Deficit Consultants. The consultants' recommendations are being reviewed by legal counsel. The report will be shared with faculty before it is put forward.
- e. President Mercer indicated that he is not likely to seek reappointment after his next term, although events will determine his final decision; the Board would need sufficient lead time to conduct a Presidential Search if he does not seek reappointment.

7) Advice for New FAEC Members

- a. Think about Faculty engagement/lack of engagement.
- b. The FA President should consider which tasks can be delegated to the VP (as this individual gets a course release each year.).
- c. Continue Unit Council "Talking Points" in Minutes/Agendas.
- d. Use the last half hour of Unit Council meetings as "Unit faculty fora", as Unit Councils have been extended one half hour for that purpose.
- e. All incoming members are advised to read bylaws and the shared governance document.
- f. Keep at an eye on what is coming out of Dean's Council.
- e. President-elect Kwak will be drafting the Fall meeting schedule (with feedback from Deans, Presidents' office, etc.).

8) The FAEC extends its appreciation to President Rainforth and the other members of the FAEC.