

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2016
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:45am

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

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Sarah Carberry (TAS) and Eric Karlin (TAS)

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from September 7, 2016
 - a. Approved.
- 2) Approval of draft FA minutes from September 7, 2016
 - a. Approved – Draft posted to website for approval by FA.
- 3) FA Vice President
 - a. Roark Atkinson was nominated to serve as the FA Vice President
 - b. Vote: 8-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstention. Roark Atkinson will serve as the FA Vice President for the current term.
- 4) FA Parliamentarian
 - a. Christina Connor was nominated to serve as the FA Parliamentarian.
 - b. Vote: 8-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstention. Christina Connor will serve as the FA Parliamentarian for the current term.
- 5) FA Meetings
 - a. FA will meet the first Wednesday of each month
- 6) FA Bylaws
 - a. All FAEC members are encouraged to read the FA Bylaws at <http://www.ramapo.edu/fa/files/2013/04/FA-Bylaws-110111.doc>
- 7) Contact Changes for Professional Staff
 - a. The proposed change from 12-month to 10-month contracts for certain staff positions has created controversy. The reasons for such changes are unclear, and the decision has had an adverse effect on staff morale. The way in which this decision was announced suggests a lack of transparency with the College's leadership and a failure of shared governance.
- 8) Library Renovations
 - a. Profs. Atkinson and Kwak will meet with President Mercer next week (Monday, 11am) to discuss the President's library task force. Prof. Kwak will suggest nominating faculty alternates.

- b. There are concerns about a lack of information sharing among different groups re: library renovations (e.g., architects being unaware of structure issues). It is unclear to what extent the President's task force will rely on the FA Library Renovations Task Force's report. The FAEC hopes that the President's task force will seriously consider the input of faculty. Faculty participation on the new task force should not be used simply to create an illusion of shared governance.

9) Gen Ed Implementation

- a. As Vice Provost Daffron indicated last week, Gen Ed distribution courses will be rolled out in Fall, 2018. Many faculty members are concerned that the administration is rushing the implementation of the new Gen Ed program. It is unclear if, as the administration claims, such a timeline is required to comply with *Middle States*-related assessment needs. Prof. Kwak believes that the College could achieve its assessment goals even if full implementation were delayed until the 2018-19 AY. Perhaps the FAEC could demonstrate how a revised timeline could work and present this information at the next FA.

10) Shared Governance Subcommittee

- a. Prof. Kwak would not like the Shared Governance Subcommittee to be faculty exclusive. Prof. Kwak will inquire about sending faculty (Prof. Ken McMurdy and another faculty member) and Dean Steve Rice to the AAUP Shared Governance conference. Prof. Torres-Baumgarten volunteered to join the subcommittee.

11) TAS Lab Credits Discussion (Guests Profs. Sarah Carberry and Eric Karlin)

- a. Prof. Carberry briefed the FAEC on the lab credit issue in TAS. As she explained, it is a three point problem:
 - i. The AFT master contract requires a minimum of 2/3 credit compensation for teaching labs (although the College has historically given faculty full credit for teaching lab courses). The administration would like to use the language of the AFT contract for lab compensation purposes in the Fall, 2017.
 - ii. The administration would also like to reduce the faculty teaching hours of lab courses from 4 credits to 3 credits. As a result, faculty would receive 2 credits of compensation for teaching lab course (2/3 of 3 credits). This may increase the teaching load of full-time faculty who teach lab courses. This will also reduce the financial compensation of adjunct faculty teaching lab courses.
 - iii. The Provost has expressed a desire to charge students credits for every lab course (currently, students are not charged and do not receive course credit for lab courses - although they may pay lab fees). Attaching credits to lab courses would force many TAS programs to exceed the current credit cap on majors. As a result, programs may have to be gutted or credit caps will have to be lifted for TAS majors. Alternatively, the 68 credit cap could be lifted. Removing the cap would allow us to keep our current curricular integrity (although this could create other problems).

Leaving the cap would lead to dropping of courses in majors or dropping of content delivered

- b. The Provost would like TAS to provide her with a plan for implementing these changes by Oct. 15. However, faculty are waiting for informal negotiations on this issue between the administration and AFT to conclude. It is unclear how much money this change will save the College.
- c. Profs. Atkinson and Perez will meet with TAS faculty next week to discuss ways in which the FAEC can assist TAS faculty with this issue.