

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC)
Minutes of the Meeting
September 30, 2015
ASB-007/008
10 am to 11:20 am

Attendees: Emma Rainforth, Rebecca Root, Renata Gangemi, Bonnie Blake, Ken McMurdy, Susan Kurzmann, Eva Ogens, Roark Atkinson

Excused Absences: Susan Eisner

Secretary: Malavika Sundararajan

Guests: Peter Mercer

1. Approval of 09/16/2015 FAEC minutes

a. The minutes of the meeting was approved

2. Discussion of updates from President Rainforth will be deferred to next meeting

3. Guest Presenter: President Peter Mercer

a. President Mercer discussed the details of Sunday's accident involving a Ramapo College student and responded to FAEC members' queries about how we might be able to avoid such incidents in the future. President Mercer assured the members that he is in talks with all involved parties and is taking into consideration several ways of addressing this issue.

b. President Rainforth asked about the email regarding the hiring of consultants to review the financial details and inquired if the consultants would be talking to faculty administrators, Professor Jason Hecht, the FAEC/FA President or other faculty members. President Mercer confirmed that he had provided the consultants with the names of President Rainforth, Prof. Hecht, and other faculty members, and they could all expect to hear from the consultants soon. He added that the major thrust of this consulting project was not around faculty but around the administration. The reason being that the administration had tried to take care of the deficit through attrition but were not entirely able to do so, hence they have requested this consultation.

c. President Rainforth requested for the President's Financial Sustainability Task Force report which detailed the financial deficits. She mentioned that she had been provided with a DVD of the power point presentation made to the FA but had never seen the actual report and that it would really help all FA/FAEC members to know the details of the report to help address the issues at hand. President Mercer invited President Rainforth to meet with him and the Provost to look at the report and ascertain what could be shared with faculty.

d. Discussion of Issues raised by the Full Professors Forum (FPF).

i. President Rainforth explained how all the issues could be characterized (broadly speaking) as problems related to communication and that the FAEC had discussed possible ways to address these issues. One of the ideas was, to

ensure vertical communication, following a discussion with the Deans at the Dean's Council, it was agreed that all information received by the Deans from administrators will be shared by them with their respective faculty at Unit Council Meetings and any information they receive from faculty will be taken back to the administrators. Similarly, we are ensuring vertical communication by having the President and Provost attend and share information at the FA/FAEC meetings. We have also asked Deans to provide extra time at the end of Unit Council meetings for FAEC representative to provide and receive information updates from various committees/task forces to enhance lateral communication. Other important suggestions include, akin to dinners hosted by the President, having the President and Provost meet with smaller groups of faculty for dinners or coffee in informal settings to help mend the bridges that seem to have taken a hit. President Mercer agreed with all the suggestions and said communication is an issue because it means something different to different people. President Mercer also explained that relying only on Deans to tell him what was going on in their Units had led to some bias and several faculty feeling left out so he intended to definitely meet with smaller groups of faculty as well as, when time permits, attend the Unit Council meetings.

ii. FAEC members also requested President Mercer for his views on FAEC members' plan to develop a document describing all the details of what Shared Governance entailed as they would appreciate a commitment from all involved parties. President Mercer stated that such a document would not only be useful but was imperative. Everyone agreed that the document could serve as a roadmap with a structure of how to engage in shared governance.

iii. President Mercer additionally stated that he would be attending a meeting at Stockton soon, at which Rochelle Hendricks would be discussing the development of the State's Master Plan for higher education; he would share with us once he knew more, and did not anticipate anything extreme.

4. Discussion of Assistant Vice Provost/Graduate Programs Candidates Search:
 - a. Members discussed that they had to find a replacement for Peggy Greene on the search committee and that they have already asked Kathy Burke to recommend someone. Members also wanted a confirmation that a clear job description existed.
5. Faculty meeting schedule:
 - a. VP Root updated us on discussions from the Class Schedule TF. Relatedly, the academic meeting timeblock in Spring is back to 3.5 hours, and with Wednesday morning classes, many committees are finding it difficult to schedule their meetings as there is no longer much free time on Wednesdays. President Rainforth suggested she could try to modify the convening group timeslots for Spring, but would need to know what combinations of convening groups people were in, to see if it is viable to reduce to 2 CG timeslots rather than 3.
6. Discussion of Updates about Campus safety:

- a. President Rainforth confirmed that Ms. Donna Singer would be speaking about the following items at the FA meeting today:
 - i. Locking classrooms from the inside.
 - ii. Update on alert beacons
 - iii. The desktop alert apps for the laptops
- 7. Items to be discussed at Unit Council meeting today included:
 - a. Receive the definition of meaningful international experience from the International Ed Committee
 - b. Receive schedule task force updates
 - c. Request information regarding convening group memberships (re: meeting schedule for SPpring)
 - d. Updates from other task force representatives