

**Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes**  
**February 24, 2015**  
**ASB 007-008**  
**9:30AM to 11:05AM**

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

**Excused Absences:** Jonathan Lipkin

**Secretary:** Mark Skowronski

**Guests:** None

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from February 17, 2016
  - a. Approved

Approval of FA minutes from February 17, 2016

  - a. Approved
  
- 2) President Rainforth's Report
  - a. The FAEC will meet with the President's cabinet at 11:10am.
  - b.. Prof. Rainforth met with President Mercer last week.
    - i. President's Mercer library renovation working group (a different entity than the FA's LRTF) has not yet been put together. President Mercer indicated (again) that faculty will be asked to serve on this working group.
    - ii. The college has not conducted any feasibility study regarding library renovations, but Pres. Mercer expects that it will in the future.
    - iii. Prof. Rainforth expressed the FAEC's concerns about the library renovation planning process. Specifically, the FAEC wants to ensure that end users have a chance to see and endorse the final design. Once the LRTF drafts a white paper and FA endorses it, the FAEC will request a meeting with Cabinet discuss it.
    - iv. There is a perception that the administration is unaware of how "non-functional" many campus spaces are (FORM should not trump FUNCTION). We need to prevent this from happening with any renovations to the library.
  - c. Prof. Rainforth and Provost Barnett met briefly this morning.
  
- 3) Gen Ed Governance
  - a. The FAEC and Dean's Council will meet March 9 (during FAEC meeting time) as the GEIT Governance Committee.
  - b. Some members of the faculty are concerned that the Provost and Vice Provost seem to making many important decisions

- regarding Gen Ed implementation (e.g., number of courses in each category) without faculty approval.
- i. From a shared governance perspective, the faculty should have the primary responsibility for implementing a Gen Ed program.
  - c. There are questions about how much decision-making authority the GEIT working groups actually have. The FAEC would like more procedural information on how such committees make decisions (e.g., the role and impact of votes). Faculty on such committees should be able to add items to the agenda of meetings (not clear if this is currently the case).
- 4) Ballots for FA At-Large Councilor Elections
- a. Per FA By-laws, unit FA reps should be selected before the FA votes for at-large FA reps.
  - b. FAEC decision (unanimous vote): SSSH will need to elect its unit rep at next week's unit council. The at-large rep election will start from scratch at the next FA meeting. Prof. Rainforth will notify the FA by email.
- 5) Task Force Updates
- a. Scheduling Task Force
    - i. Prof. Root indicated that there is some debate on the task force about extending common meeting times on Wednesdays (concerns about efficiency, costs, student presence). Questions about these issues will be included on the scheduling survey to be sent to faculty.
  - b. Service Task Force
    - i. Meredith Davis has informed Prof. Rainforth that a survey will be sent out to faculty.
  - c. Experiential Learning Task Force – no updates
- 6) Meeting with Cabinet at 11:10am.
- a. Focus will be LRTF.

### **Notes from FAEC Visit with President's Cabinet, 11:10am-11:30am**

- 1) The FAEC and President's Cabinet discussed the work of the FA's Library Renovation's Task Force. This will likely be the first of several meetings with Cabinet to discuss this project. It was made clear that the information presented by the FAEC today is preliminary in nature.
  - a. Prof. Rainforth communicated the FAEC's and LRTF's concerns with the preliminary architectural plans.
  - b. The Vice President of Administration and Finance indicated that the architect's work is currently on hold. The college is waiting for a

funding decision by the State. President Mercer announced that all 17 members of Bergen County's legislative delegation sent a letter to the Governor asking the State to use the current bond issue to make up for its deficient funding of Ramapo's needs. A meeting has been arranged between Peter and the Governor's Chief of Staff to discuss these issues. The last time a capital funding bond decision was made, there was no transparency.

- c. President Mercer ensures that the college has not committed itself to any plans. The administration will depend on what the FA brings to them (e.g., the LRTF's white paper) regarding library renovation needs.
- d. Prof. Rainforth expressed the FAEC's concerns that Ramapo often appears to prioritize "form over function" in many spaces. There is limited utility in many spaces due to aesthetics. The FAEC wants to ensure that limited resources are spent wisely and that the college does not need to spend resources correcting such design problems after the fact.
- e. President Mercer agrees that faculty input will be necessary at multiple stages of this project.
- f. Several FAEC members raised concerns about the maintenance of existing structures. President Mercer indicated that the maintenance of a building is generally estimated at 2% of capital cost. The college (nor any NJ college) does not spend anywhere near this amount (per President Mercer).

2) Presentation by LRTF Chair Roark Atkinson, updating Cabinet with preliminary information from the task force.

- a. The LRTF's main concerns include the 1) potential intrusion of new features, 2) preservation of existing library features that add value (faculty offices), and 3) consideration of added expenses.
- b. LRFT's Preliminary Priorities for Renovations
  - i. Remediate all sources of water damage.
  - ii. Ensure proper conditions for galleries and archives.
  - iii. Allocate areas for quiet study (and extended study hours).
  - iv. Address infrastructure issues (e.g., insufficient number of outlets, printers that are working).
  - v. Minimize disposal costs of old building.
  - vi. Ensure a logical layout of all floors.
  - vii. Preserve recent library renovations.
  - viii. Increase space for more books.
  - ix. Replace furniture.
  - x. Create a resting place for commuting students.
- c. LRTF does not want
  - i. pests (re: café).
  - ii. congestion.

- iii. features that will compromise academic functionality with non-academic functionality.
- d. Prof. Atkinson indicated that a banquet hall is one of the lowest priorities for students and faculty.
  - i. President Mercer suggests that the faculty not be too concerned about the details of the plan submitted for the bond issue. This plan is non-binding. He agrees that improving library functionality will be the highest priority.
- e. President Mercer suggested that he might know more about state funding and next steps (including his library renovations working group) in the next week.