

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC)
Minutes of the Meeting
May 20, 2015
ASB-522
8.30 -9.30 AM

Attendees: Emma Rainforth, Rebecca Root, Susan Eisner, Kim Lorber, Ken McMurdy, Susan Kurzmann, Bonnie Blake, Jonathan Lipkin, Tae Kwak

Secretary: Dean Chen (excused absence)

Guests: Professor Thierry Rakotobe-Joel, Professor Eva Ogens and Malavika Sundararajan (acting Secretary)

1. Approval of the minutes of 05/06/2015 FAEC

- a. The minutes of the meeting were approved

2. Review of agenda items for May 20th, 2015 Faculty Assembly meeting.

- a. Key reports and article on application acceptance rates: Explained the items that would be discussed at the assembly, starting with the article related to inflated application rates, which would be presented by Chris Romano.
- b. ARC items: Discussed that there were some ARC items to note: i) Absentee ballots had been requested, but a decision had been made to not accept absentee ballots, as the time of year would allow us to have greater responses in person. ii) Online-Hybrid course definitions had been revised by ARC and will be recommended for a vote.
- c. All FAEC members agreed to the need to get a vote on the service task force at the FA meeting.
- d. Time Management: The need for limiting discussion times by both presenters and people asking the questions was put forth by FAEC members. All members agreed that a 15 minute cap must be placed for all agenda items to ensure timeliness at FA meetings. A suggestion was made that future agendas can have approximate times next to each item. Further discussion in this area included, i) The consideration that certain items like “new topics” could be given additional time, if the “updates” were allotted shorter times; ii) Whether presentations could be made available to faculty prior to the FA meetings. FAEC members agreed to consider both points for future FA meetings.
- e. Interim/Permanent Schedule: Currently, the Scheduling Task Force had two charges left, namely an assessment plan by June 1st and a permanent schedule by September 10, 2015 as well as surveys of students and faculty. FAEC discussed if this was possible to execute, given the timeline and uncertainty related to the credit system model. FAEC thus also discussed the need for an extension of the interim schedule and to not finalize a permanent schedule until a decision was

made about the credit model. This would also provide additional time for the committee to conduct surveys and collect data from the registrar's office to accurately inform all schedule changes. All FAEC members agreed to request a vote to extend the interim schedule until a decision on the model was reached.

3. Guest: Professor Thierry Rakotobe-Joel.

Prof. Rakotobe-Joel was welcomed by the FAEC president and others.

Prof. Rakotobe-Joel explained that FAEC will be receiving an annual report from ARC, which will include information regarding all items approved by ARC in the past year, namely the list of 68 courses, the Neuroscience and Earth science minors and the new definitions of online and hybrid courses. He explained, that ARC had already presented these reports to the Provost and Dean's council and that he would be presenting it at the FA meeting today (May 20, 2015) to have it approved by the faculty and the Provost so as to have it included in the manual. Prof. Rakotobe-Joel further explained what aspects of Gen-Ed they had approved. He said that the proposed Gen-Ed had been approved in part, i.e, ARC had approved just the structure and form and not the implementation plan. Prof. Rakotobe-Joel described how ARC will be part of the implementation plan at a later stage, wherein FAEC may have some input and ARC would also like some input. At that point ARC would ask GECCO to participate in the implementation plan- as GECCO is in charge of overseeing and managing courses in the college but in this case, it would be done in consultation with ARC. In effect, Prof. Rakotobe-Joel shared that the process of approving Gen Ed courses in future would entail GECCO looking at courses to assess the learning goals of the courses, following which ARC will review and approve the courses, very similar to process of approving writing intensive courses currently.

FAEC members requested and received confirmation that both Gen Ed and Hybrid/Online recommendations would be presented for a motion, and if questions were put forth, both Prof. Rakotobe-Joel and the Gen Ed chairperson would answer the questions.

Members of the FAEC requested for a clear explanation of the next steps if Gen Ed is voted for, and if Gen Ed is voted against. It was highlighted, that if it is the latter then it would go back to the current task force for a revision. FAEC members suggested that a different group may be considered instead of the same, as a vote against their Gen Ed proposal may indicate a misalignment of the group's vision. Other FAEC members agreed that the current group be provided a second chance to bring forth a modified version, especially since the criteria for the changes will only be in 2016 and everyone will have an extra year to implement the changes. Prof. Rakotobe-Joel also confirmed that ARC will have two deadlines, one for regular courses and a separate one for Gen Ed. It was emphasized at this point that if the report is approved, an Implementation TF was in the works (a draft charge of which was forwarded from the Provost to FAEC by

President Rainforth last week); the group had already been confirmed by the Provost to be the working group.

FAEC members requested clarification related to the number of courses in the Gen-Ed and the role of GECCO. It was clarified that the number of courses would remain 10 but greater clarity could be requested from the Gen Ed task force to communicate the former. Further, the members were informed that GECCO would continue as a group but would work on the assessment and management of the courses. However, a group which oversees the implementation of the courses will have a representative from each of the other groups, including experts in each subject area category. All members were also asked to review the May 13th draft related to the group design process.

4. Debriefing past year activities for FAEC- It was agreed by the members, that FAEC would reconvene today (May 20, 2015) from 12.30-1pm in SC 217 to debrief as well as identify key items FAEC could work on, in the coming year.