

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
March 29, 2017
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:30am

Attendees: Tae Kwak, Christina Connor, Cristina Perez, Roark Atkinson, Kim Lorber, Renata Gangemi

Absent: Gladys Torres-Baumgarten, Kathryn Zeno, Eva Ogens

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Tom Kitchen (Writing Center), Vice Provost Eric Daffron, President Peter Mercer

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from March 22, 2017.
 - a) Approved.

- 2) Visit by Vice Provost Daffron and Tom Kitchen.
 - a) Faculty have concerns about the services of the Writing Center.
 - i) Some students have been complaining about long wait times and the quality of student-provided tutoring services.
 - ii) The center appears to have difficulty recruiting qualified student volunteers.
 - iii) There may be an insufficient number of professional tutors.
 - b) The Provost has suggested that the FAEC conduct a short campus survey to evaluate Writing Center services.
 - i) The FAEC would like to work with the Writing Center, WAC, and SGA to construct this survey.
 - ii) It is important that survey questions do not imply services that are not offered (e.g., proofreading/copy-editing).
 - c) In general, Writing Center services are not meant to be discipline specific. Students are expected to know the content of their courses.
 - i) Many faculty would like the Writing Center to have some discipline-specific tutoring services.
 - d) Students may have unrealistic expectations about the Writing Center's services. For example, the Writing Center is not intended to be an editing service. The goal is to provide instruction.
 - e) Students may make Writing Center appointments through Connect. In many cases, students can access services with little to no wait.
 - f) Tutoring services are available, during normal business hours, during finals week. Student tutors are not available during this time.
 - g) Faculty are encouraged to report any problems that they observe with tutoring services to the Writing Center.

- 3) School Restructuring.
 - a) The Provost is convening a faculty task force to research and recommend structural changes. At present, this committee does not have a formal charge. Some deans are not asking for faculty volunteers until this committee is formally charged.

- b) Should the FA convene its own task force of major conveners to oversee restructuring discussions? Some are concerned about the representativeness of faculty serving on the Provost's task force.
 - c) Is this the right time for a College restructuring? Many things are happening at the same time (GenEd, Middle States, a new Vice Provost). Perhaps restructuring should wait.
 - d) We may need to have an emergency FA meeting at the end of April to discuss this issue.
- 4) Visit by President Peter Mercer.
- a) Library Renovations.
 - i) When renovations are complete, there will be no visible division between the new and old building. The library will have the appearance/feel of being a new building.
 - ii) The timetable for renovations is still elusive. We are not likely to have schematics for a year.
 - iii) Some aspects of the renovation plans may be different from our original ideas.
 - b) College Restructuring.
 - i) Prof Kwak communicated the faculty's concern that the Provost's restructuring task force has not been formally charged (although deans have been asked to select faculty volunteers).
 - (1) President Mercer's Response: We do not want to have a task force that just validates a predetermined structure. The task force needs some flexibility to define its mission.
 - ii) What are the goals of restructuring? Academic disciplinary coherence? Financial considerations? It is critically important that the task force has parameters.
 - (1) President Mercer's Response: We should have a reasonably consistent degree of administrative support across the disciplines. It is also important that we structure the college in a way that is appropriate for future needs and changes. The task force will work out its parameters through discussions with the Provost and President.
 - iii) Other Comments.
 - (1) Some are concerned about the timetable for restructuring. Would it be better to wait until after the Middle States visit?
 - (2) Faculty are not necessarily opposed to restructuring. However, they want it to be done well.
 - (3) The current plan to populate the Provost's task force with two faculty members for each unit may be insufficiently representative. Perhaps the task force should include every major convener.

