

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (FAEC) Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2017
SSHGS Conference Room
10:00am to 11:45am

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

Secretary: Mark Skowronski

Guests: Provost Beth Barnett, SGA Senator Stephan Lally, SGA Senator Jaime Velazquez

- 1) Approval of FAEC minutes from March 8, 2017.
 - a) Approved.

- 2) Visit by Provost Barnett.
 - a) The Provost will be charging a task force to review Ramapo's organizational structure. She would like two faculty members from each school to populate this task force. The task force may propose structural changes (and will provide a rationale for any such restructuring). Everything is on the table.
 - i) The Deans will not be on this task force.
 - ii) Every school needs to have a discussion about possible restructuring (not only SSHGS).
 - iii) The task force does not need to worry about endowment-related issues (e.g., use of the name "Salameno").
 - iv) There are no specific criteria for the creation/continuation of a "school". There does, however, need to be a critical mass of students and majors. A healthy major ideally has at least 100 students (per Provost).
 - v) Convening groups will likely remain intact.
 - b) Prof. Kwak communicated the SSHGS faculty's concern about possibly losing its representation on Dean's Council. An assistant dean may not be a sufficient voice for the Humanities faculty.
 - c) Several members of the FAEC expressed their concern with the timing of the restructuring announcement (pre-Spring Break). The Provost indicated the announcement coincided with the release of Spring enrollment numbers. The Provost is very concerned with enrollment trends in the humanities.
 - d) Library Renovations.
 - i) Several members of the FAEC thanked the Provost for her work on the President's Library and Learning Commons Task Force (i.e., ensuring that the concerns of librarians are considered). Provost Barnet agrees that the librarians' workspace should not be reduced in any new or refurbished building.
 - ii) It appears that the Writing Center staff have not been contacted about their needs for transition space. The Provost will investigate this.
 - e) There have been faculty and student complaints about the services of the Writing Center. The center has had difficulty recruiting student tutors. Several faculty would like to see more professional tutors. Per the Provost's recommendation, the FAEC will

explore creating a survey to collect data on the Writing Center's services.

- 3) Visit by SGA Senators Stephan Lally and Jaime Velazquez.
 - a) The SGA's Emergency Student Relief Committee would like to give students the ability to donate their unused Flex Dollars to a fund for students in need. The committee believes that the administration is resisting their efforts at implementing such a program.
 - b) A bill before the NJ State Assembly would allow students to donate unused meal plans to designated charities. It is unclear how much money Ramapo students leave unused in their meal plans. The Emergency Student Relief Committee has been unsuccessful in obtaining this information from the administration.
 - c) The committee is working to create a process with the Ramapo foundation to allocate money for student need (by creating a Foundation account and allowing students to donate Ramapo dollars). Prof. Kwak will ask President Mercer about donating a portion of the FA's morale fund toward this cause.

- 4) Other Announcements.
 - a) The FA has not yet received many faculty volunteers to serve on the "Safe haven" Advisory Council.
 - b) Prof. Kwak would like SGA input on any FA survey of the Writing Center.
 - c) Profs. Stearns and Skowronski agreed to revise and prepare the FA's Deans survey.

