

President Mercer welcomed the group.

Approval of Dec. 2, 2016 Minutes
E. Petkus moved and C. Herbst seconded approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved.

President’s Report
President Mercer described the tense environment public higher education is increasingly taked with navigating. At Ramapo, the College is addressing concerns about shortfalls in state funding and a shrinking population of college bound students through efforts such as agreements with our community colleges, restructuring our aid-based programs, and increasing our visibility. He shared that he recently chaired a Middle States visit to East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania where they are confronting similar challenges, adding that of the 14 public institutions in PA, some will be forced to close/merge in the coming years. He closed by noting that the competitive environment the College operates in increasingly requires an explicit attention to detail from all members of the campus that is largely unprecedented.

Laboratory Credit in School of Theoretical and Applied Science
Dean Saiff described briefly the design of the Ramapo College curriculum and the faculty work load. He added that, as a point of clarification, Middle States cannot overrule a Collective Bargaining Agreement, and the rates of faculty compensation are established by contract.

Dean Saiff shared that all major programs at the College must include 40 credits of general education, 68 credits for major and school core credits, and 20 elective credits. The TAS faculty did away with the school core in order to provide 8 additional credits in the majors and he and the Provost agreed that the math and science requirements in general education could be satisfied through courses taken in the lab science majors. This provides 8 additional credits for up to 16 new credits for lab courses.

In addition, all major programs at the College require 128 credit hours to graduate or 16 credit hours per semester. If the faculty have designed a four year plan for a lab science major with 18 credits required in a given semester, Dean Saiff said, then there must also be a semester where less than 18 credits are required (and in which students may take courses for a minor, a double major, Honors Program requirements, or participate in the TAS Research Honors Program and the Chemistry Teaching Assistant Program). Dean Saiff closed by noting that the Academic Review Committee, an arm of the Faculty Assembly, approved the lab credit changes to take effect in September 2017.

President’s Library/Learning Commons Task Force
President Mercer directed PAC members to a slide presentation highlighting the background of the project with respect to the Campus Facilities Master Plan, Faculty Assembly Library Renovation Task Force, application for and award of state bond funds, establishment of the President’s Library/Learning Commons Task force, and the recent selection of a firm for architectural and engineering services. He went on to describe the project goals and the activity underway as part of the programming phase.
Dean Perry advised that as a member of the Task Force, he was reassured to learn from the engineers that the bones of the existing structure are sound and that, as a result, the square footage for renovation will be far more affordable than expenses associated with new construction. VP Davey advised that the College has secured $6.2 million in gifts for the project and Mr. Mastrangelo commented that the fundraising campaign is off to a great start even though the $15million goal is a stretch target, adding that every goal should be just unobtainable. Dean Siecke expressed the Task Force’s interest in incorporating natural light, technology, and a café into the new facility.

**AY 17-18 Draft Meeting Calendar**

Secretary Goldstein reviewed the draft PAC meeting calendar and asked members for feedback in the coming weeks. The draft calendar is 10/11, 12/6, 2/28/18, and 4/18/18.

**New Business**
The Commencement Speaker for 2017 will be revealed this week.

Helen Higginbotham has joined the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Compliance as Director of Affirmative Action and Workplace Compliance.

**Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 12:36PM.

Bwg/