

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Meeting

**February 28, 2006**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Corporation Room, University Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Bob Pelcovits, Chair; Ann Dill, Vice Chair; Michel-André Bossy, Past Chair; Donald Forsyth, Albert Dahlberg, Svetlana Evdokimova, Marida Hollos, and Esther Whitfield.

Guests: Philip Gruppuso, Beppie Huidekoper, Walter Hunter, Shriram Krishnamurthi, Brendan McNally, Shoggy Waryn, Robert Zimmer

The meeting began at 3:05 p.m. Approval of the 2/14 and 2/28 FEC minutes is postponed until the March 14 meeting.

Provost Zimmer spoke with the FEC about faculty input into new ideas for undergraduate education. There needs to be greater discussion about Brown's science education, international programs, advising, housing and concentration needs. Committees need to be formed to address these issues. The College Curriculum Council (CCC), College Advisory Board (CAB) and the Academic Priorities Committee (APC) will all have some role in the review process. Professor Pelcovits asked if there is a time frame for completion of the review, the Provost stating it is hard to judge right now. It may not begin seriously until the fall and will certainly run into the next academic year. It was recommended the final report not be written entirely by one committee. Professor Evdokimova suggested a separate group study teaching in the humanities and perhaps report to the CCC, and the Provost suggested consulting the Dean of the College about it.

Discussion ensued with regard to multi-disciplinary programs and courses, Admission's role in recruitment of students especially in the humanities and sciences, and the scope of the work of the CCC, CAB and APC. Is the range they cover sufficient? A full review of the entire College could take years. The Provost would like to find some balance to keep the study on a smaller scale and suggests a task force be formed to evaluate the existing structure. Professor Dill noted that objectives and resources in meeting concentration needs should also be considered in the study. The next Dean of the College will have a major role in implementation. Provost Zimmer would like the new Dean of the College involved early on in the process and suggests beginning the review after the new Dean is named. The FEC and Provost will discuss this further at a later date.

Dr. Philip Gruppuso, Associate Dean of Medical Education, brought two initiatives to the FEC's attention: (1) expansion of the Medical School student body and (2) a continuation of the pilot admission process. A report on both proposals was distributed with the agenda. Both initiatives have been reviewed and approved unanimously by four groups in the Medical School and need to go before the entire faculty for approval. The goal is to bring the proposals to the Corporation in May. In April 2006, Brown's Corporation approved a two-year pilot project designed to reinstitute the standard admission route to the Brown Medical School on a trial basis. The pilot program was successful resulting in a strong applicant pool with high standards of academic

excellence. The only down side has been difficulty in recruiting underrepresented minority groups because of exceptional offers at other universities, and a strategic plan is needed. Resources necessary to support a larger body of students and research opportunities were discussed. Professor Gruppuso will compose a motion for presentation at the April faculty meeting in consultation with Peter Richardson, Russell Carey and the FEC.

The Bookstore Committee led by Vice President Huidekoper reported to the FEC on its proposals noting that the written report previously submitted to them is a “work in progress”. Management opportunities for the Brown Bookstore and results of its overall review were presented for discussion, much of the feedback coming from last summer. Although the Bookstore does a good job of providing for students, there is a need for improvement in areas such as customer service, merchandising, and information technology support. The study resulted in two operational models for which the Bookstore Committee would like additional feedback. The proposal will be discussed by the Brown University Community Council on March 14 and by other groups including the University Curriculum Council, Undergraduate Council of Students, Medical Student Senate, and Graduate Student Council. Brown Morning Mail will be announcing open forums on the subject. The plan is to complete the study this spring, the final decision resting with the Administration and not the Corporation. Vice President Huidekoper asked if the FEC thought the faculty should be involved in the open forums. Professor Pelcovits replied that the faculty is not in a position to have another faculty forum this year, but he will be happy to send a bulk e-mail to all faculty reminding them to focus on Bookstore issues and to respond to Brown morning mail.

Dr. Shoggy Waryn was invited to discuss the annual report from the Computing Advisory Board (CAB). He summarized the written report included with the agenda reporting on risk assessment at Brown, storage chargeback models, and on-line learning and teaching. CIS achieved better security of the computing environment this past year, the Spam quarantine proving to be quite effective. There have been no serious major attacks on the computer system which is a good thing. New policies are now much clearer, recognizing specific departmental needs for independently-run servers while maintaining integrity of the University-wide system. The CAB is very excited about the spectacular growth of on-line teaching and learning tools. Students are complaining about the cable system on campus and the CAB is experimenting with using IPTV instead. They will evaluate the response to the experiment in late spring '06. CAB subcommittees are being created to study specific areas of interest including research, instructional, and student computing. Dr. Waryn as vice-chair has played a very active role in voicing faculty's concerns about computing to the CAB and will present the report at the April faculty meeting.

Professor Pelcovits wrapped up the meeting with a Chair's report. The FEC officers and some invited department chairs had a very positive meeting with the Board of Fellows on Corporation weekend. They discussed the Science Cohort which is clearly off the fast track, but the March 16 faculty forum on the Cohort will be held as planned. The Fellows listened intently to department chairs' concerns which pleased them. The Fellows clearly wanted to hear faculty's opinion about the Academic Enrichment Plan, and logistics of undergraduate education were also discussed.

The FEC recently met the Undergraduate Council of Students (UCS) and Graduate Student Council (GSC) over two separate luncheon meetings. The UCS voiced concern about faculty morale and the new emphasis on research over teaching. This also was related to their own concerns about teaching taking a back seat. A forum on a pluses and minuses grading system is being sponsored by the UCS this Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in Salomon 101 and another one will follow on March 9, sponsored by CCC and the Graduate School. There will be two UCS reps on

the Dean of the College search committee. The GSC voiced concern about insurance costs, housing and family life issues, and had positive things to say about the current Graduate School administration. They asked about whether or not the graduate students would be covered by the Ombudsperson should one be hired. The most useful intervention to graduate students seemed to be between the departments and the deans.

There being no new business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau  
Secretary