

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

**February 9, 2010
3:00-5:00 p.m.**

Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

Present: Chung-I Tan, Chair; James Dreier, Past Chair; Susan Allen, Lina Fruzzetti, Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Thomas Lewis, Martin Maxey, Philip Rosen

Guests: Rod Beresford, Katherine Bergeron, Sheila Bonde, Michele Cyr, Tom Doeppner, Stephen Lassonde, John Sparado, Edward Wing

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting were approved.

Professor Allen reported briefly on the Biomedical Faculty Council's meeting this month. Items discussed included Lifespan negotiations for having a common IRB in the hospitals, RI Hospital/Miriam Hospital merger, and Community Health becoming four departments. The Council voted in favor of a policy for clinical tenure. Public Health approved a policy for accepting research funding from entities that are associated with the tobacco industry, but the Biomedical Faculty Council had issues with it and tabled the discussion for a later date.

Professor Tan began his chair's report by announcing that nominations for the Rosenberger Medal of Honor will be discussed later on during the meeting in Executive Session. The APC has provisionally approved the proposal for a School of Engineering at Brown. There will be a faculty forum on the subject March 9 after which the proposers will be invited to discuss the proposal with the FEC. Dean Bergeron asked if the FEC would have any objections to hold the Opening Convocation at 4 p.m. on the first day of classes rather than noon as was done in the fall 2009. The special faculty meeting was immediately following the Convocation at 5:30 p.m. followed by the faculty reception at the President's home. The Dean would like to repeat this arrangement in 2010 for three reasons: (1) it was cooler outside at 4 p.m.; (2) there was a much larger turnout of faculty for the event; and (3) they did not have the situation of canceling classes at both 12 noon AND at 4 p.m. as they did in the past. Michael Pesta had no complaints from faculty about the time change that came through the Registrar's office. The FEC voiced no concerns about the practice and thinks it should be repeated in 2010.

Deans Bergeron and Bonde presented a proposal to discontinue Brown's four-year concurrent A.B. /A.M. Degree Program allowing students to earn both an A.B. and an A.M. at Brown in four years. Dean Lassonde, chair of the Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) which approves nominations to the Program, raised questions about it

with the Graduate Council and the College Curriculum Council (CCC). The Program has existed since the 1950's and never changed over the years, the program written at a time when there were very few graduate students on campus. Lack of breadth for the undergraduates was a concern of the CAS. The Graduate Council argued that an A.M. degree earned concurrently with the A.B. in four years was not an advanced degree, while the CCC voiced concern that the Program compromises the breadth and depth of student's liberal education. Both committees recommend the University discontinue this degree option for undergraduates. Deans Bonde and Bergeron sent a memo to a number of department chairs in late September to inform them of the possible elimination of the Program because it may affect the way in which they advise undergraduates in their concentration. Brown's five-year A.B. /A.M. Program will continue to be offered. The FEC asked what would happen to undergraduates already enrolled in the A.B. /A.M. Degree Program if the University decided to discontinue it. Students already enrolled would be allowed to finish; new enrollments would be stopped. The FEC's consensus was to bring the recommendation to the Faculty at a future faculty meeting for a vote.

The meeting was called into Executive Session from 3:55-4:05 p.m.

Deans Wing and Cyr were invited to discuss a proposal for clinical tenure in the Division of Biology & Medicine. The Alpert Medical School is in the minority of its peer institutions for having tenured faculty in the clinical departments. Dean Eisen presented the proposal to various constituencies last academic year and eligibility issues arose during the vetting process that were problematic. The proposal was rewritten so that clinical tenure will now apply solely to chairs of clinical departments. The designation will not guarantee employment or salary. The decision to award clinical tenure will ultimately be made by the Tenure, Promotion and Appointments Committee (TPAC), and tenured faculty in the clinical departments would be the ones bringing the recommendation for tenure awards to TPAC. The proposal has been vetted through the MFEC, Council of Clinical Chairs, the Biomedical Faculty Council, and through the Academic Priorities Committee (APC). All have endorsed it. The intention is not to dilute the concept of tenure. Clinical tenure would be considered an honorific title for clinical faculty in the Medical School. Dean Cyr noted that it is very difficult to acquire quality medical faculty that do not have that title and to recruit the best clinical chairs. They had thought about an alternative name, and clinical tenure was decided upon to distinguish it from regular tenure at Brown. The FEC's consensus was to bring the proposal to the March 2 faculty meeting for Faculty's endorsement.

Professor Tom Doeppner, vice-chair of the Information and Technology Advisory Board and Mr. John Sparado, Director of Technical Architecture and Outreach, joined the FEC for discussion about email options being considered by the Board. In about a year, Microsoft will no longer be supporting the system Brown is currently using. If we were to wait a year, an outsourced Microsoft exchange option will likely become available, but Brown would have to identify new funds for it. Converting to a Google email system by this fall would be a considerable cost-saving measure for the University. One would still be allowed to use their current client, the change being most evident when accessing email from another computer other than one's own. Data could be stored on servers

outside the U.S. This is done so if all servers in the U.S. go down, there will be back-up. A Google email system would provide an easier method for storing and sharing files and better integration with various calendars. CIS recommends Google Apps for Education, something the undergraduates are already using. Academic departments and individual faculty are currently requesting to convert to Google Apps, and many faculty are current users of the consumer version. The IT Advisory Board will be speaking with a number of departments and other groups of students and faculty. If the FEC hears of any serious objections, they will inform Professor Doeppner and Mr. Sparado. If no serious concerns are raised, Vice-President Pickett intends to bring a proposal for converting to Google to the Corporation. Mr. Sparado offered FEC members the opportunity to individually test Google. Ms. Moreau will take names of interested FEC members and submit the list to Mr. Sparado who will set them up with Google Test Accounts.

The meeting was then called to Executive Session at 4:55 p.m. and was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary