

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting

September 11, 2007
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

Present: Ruth Colwill, Chair; James Dreier, Vice-chair; Ann Dill, Past Chair; James Campbell, Albert Dahlberg, Svetlana Evdokimova, Chad Jenkins, Geoffrey Russom, Gabriel Taubin, Robert Smith

Guests: Katherine Bergeron, Steven Hamburg, Pamela O'Neil, Michael Pickett, Richard Spies

Professor Ruth Colwill called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and introductions followed.

Dean of the College, Katherine Bergeron, was invited to discuss the Committee on Academic Standing's (CAS) proposal to amend its charge. They propose that the Deputy Dean of the College replace the Dean of the College as chair of the committee and that appeals would be referred to the Dean of the College. The Dean would no longer attend CAS meetings. The Standing Committee on the Academic Code has functioned well with this kind of structure which the Dean of the College believes is fairer to the students. The FEC recommended that the Dean of the College address the CAS if she reverses its decision. The Dean's office should also make very clear to students what the guidelines are for appealing a decision and should post them on the web.

Discussion ensued with regard to defining the appeal process. Professor Dill suggested that the Dean of the College use the Office of Student Life's (OSL) appeal process as a guide. Dean Bergeron thanked the FEC for its suggestions. The FEC invited Dean Bergeron to present the CAS motion at the October 2 faculty meeting.

Professor Colwill gave a chair's report. There are no written procedures for renaming departments at Brown. Professor Colwill drafted a proposal for renaming departments in response to questions from the Provost's office and requested that the Academic Priorities Committee (APC) discuss the issue. The FEC then discussed the draft proposal. They agreed that the University and not just departments should approve any renaming of an academic unit at Brown. The President would review a proposal and then decide if it should go to the Corporation. FEC provided feedback that led to revision of the statement with regard to the scholarly consequences of renaming a department. The FEC approved the proposal unanimously as amended. When the FEC officers meet with the Provost this week, they will offer their support of the proposal.

Professor Colwill was pleased to report that all faculty who were asked to serve on the FEC's ad hoc committee on leave policy regarding "(Research Faculty)" have agreed to do so. The Committee will be chaired by Susan Miller, Associate Professor of Community Health (research), and they are charged with studying (research) faculty issues. The chair has already been asked to investigate who handles research benefits for Brown's "(research)" faculty, and the FEC will help them address the leave policy issue. The ad hoc committee on leave policy regarding "(Research

Faculty)" will report back to the FEC periodically, the final report due by April 2008. It was suggested an FEC member sit on the committee to act as a liaison and not a spokesperson. Professor Dahlberg agreed to serve in that capacity and will provide progress reports to the FEC. The FEC discussed the role of the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) in reviewing recommendations from the ad hoc committee but did not make a final decision.

The Vice President for Campus Life, Margaret Klawunn, would like the FEC to suggest some names of faculty who she can ask to serve on the Committee on the Residential Experience. The committee currently has a sufficient number of Faculty Fellows but 3-4 regular faculty members are still needed. The FEC sees this as an opportunity for junior faculty to be involved with a committee if the load is light and the committee meets once a month. Several junior and senior faculty names were raised. Professor Colwill will prepare a list for Vice President Klawunn. The FEC thinks it is important to have faculty on this committee with experience in working with students outside of the classroom. Faculty advisors to athletics and the Greek houses were suggested as examples. Professor Colwill will mention this to Margaret.

It is not clear to some in the Faculty Rules and Regulations (FRR), Section 1. Part I., B., Non-Voting Members that associate deans holding faculty positions retain their voting rights, so this will be clarified. Also, assistant and associate provosts are not listed and a motion will be made to add these titles to the section on non-voting faculty in FRR. The FEC approved these changes unanimously and agreed that a motion be presented at the October 2 faculty meeting. The FEC will also go forward with a motion to change "mail ballot" to "email ballot" wherever it appears in the FRR. An administrator from CIS will be on hand at the faculty meeting to answer any questions about the security of electronic balloting.

The FEC officers recently met with Associate Provost Brenda Allen and Flora Keshgegian, University Ombudsperson, about an FEC review of the Ombuds position. The FEC will need to make a recommendation to the President about the future of the pilot program, whether to continue as is, terminate, or establish a permanent office. This is not a review of Dr. Keshgegian, only the office. The FEC officers will be meeting with President Simmons about this on Wednesday. The review will include an assessment of the impact of the Ombuds office on the FEC, Grievance Committee, Dean of the Faculty's office and Brenda Allen's office.

Professor Steve Hamburg, faculty vice-chair of the Campus Planning Advisory Board (CPAB), Vice-president Richard Spies (Chair), and Pamela O'Neil (Associate Provost) were invited to discuss a proposal from the CPAB to revise its charge. Vice-President Spies' role has changed where he is doing more work with the city and state. Since Pamela O'Neil has already been directly involved with the CPAB's work and has been responsible for integration of advice, they propose that she be Chair of CPAB and Richard Spies would step down. Executive Vice President for Planning would be deleted wherever mentioned in the Board's charge and Provost or his/her designee would be added. Mr. Spies would still remain involved with the Board. The FEC discussed repackaging the proposal in a way that would be consistent with Faculty Rules. A proposal was made to replace Executive Vice President for Planning with "the senior administrator charged with oversight of the utilization and development of the physical campus". This suggestion was well-received and the FEC voted unanimously to accept the proposal as amended. Professor Colwill will consult the FRR regarding the next step.

The meeting was called to Executive Session from 4:20-4:30 p.m.

Michael Pickett, new Vice President for Computing and Information Services, was invited to meet with the FEC to discuss the status of the Computing Advisory Board (CAB). After

introductions, the vice president gave a brief background of his experience while employed at Duke University and spoke about what he would like to accomplish in his position here at Brown. He proposes creating a Faculty Committee on Computing that would report to him but be chaired by a faculty member. He feels Faculty leadership is important to such a committee and that faculty should have a significant role in setting the agenda. A Faculty Committee on Computing will enable him to participate more at meetings if he is not running them. The vice president plans to speak with the Provost about this.

Discussion ensued about how to set topics for the agenda. This should not be the role of CIS. Mr. Pickett suggests a steering committee whose role would be to solicit Faculty for agenda topics that are of key interest to the faculty, especially policy issues such as computer security. He would like to recruit faculty for the committee who have good technical background. The CAB needs to be more aware of technology issues and have the ability to make good technological decisions, not policy or procedural decisions. The CAB has not been asking faculty about their technological needs on a regular basis. He is a strong believer in Faculty Governance and Faculty oversight. Mr. Pickett thinks he can work with the CAB for now, but wants to make sure he has at least one substantial item of interest to Faculty on each agenda and asked for the FEC's input.

The FEC shared many ideas with the vice president about networking, scholarly technology (especially in the humanities), more staff support for faculty in the departments, and fine-tuning the Banner System. Professor Smith noted that the quality of the Medical School is greatly affected by computer technology especially those medical faculty not paid by Brown. Vice President Pickett appreciated the FEC's input and Professor Colwill thanked him for coming.

Professor Colwill asked for a volunteer from the FEC to attend MFEC and Biomedical Faculty Council meetings. Professor Russom volunteered to serve for the first semester. Cheryl Moreau will see that he gets the MFEC and Biomedical Faculty Council meeting dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary