

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

**February 22, 2011
3:00-5:00 p.m.**

Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

Present: Susan Allen, Cynthia Garcia Coll (Chair), Reid Cooper, Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Harold Roth, Benjamin Raphael, Philip Rosen, Chung-I Tan (Past Chair)

Guests: Katherine Bergeron, Clyde Briant, Constantine Gatsonis, Peter Monti, Suzanne-Stewart Steinberg, Peter Weber, Fox Wetle, Ira Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. The February 8 minutes were approved.

Dean Bergeron was invited to discuss CCC's proposal for a Foreign Language and Culture Certification Program at Brown. She highlighted sections of the written proposal distributed to the FEC including specifications and requirements. Students will be required to take 6 courses taught in the L2 at Brown, or at Brown approved programs abroad, with at least 2 of the 6 courses at the 500-level or above, with a prerequisite of Grade B or above. Eligibility for a certificate requires completion of all 6 courses. There is evidence that students at institutions who grant certificates have a great deal of interest in them as do some departments. It is the CCC's opinion that language and culture certificates are in accordance with the spirit of the New Curriculum and Brown's Internationalization efforts. The decision to pursue language certification would be entirely voluntary on the part of students, enhancing the study abroad experience and allowing for flexibility in selecting courses to meet the requirements. Dean Bergeron would appreciate the FEC sponsoring a faculty forum on the subject to get Faculty's opinion of the proposed program. The CCC will be speaking with the language departments individually to get their feedback. Discussion ensued about the unique skill sets for the proposed program and how it would be administered. Departments would have to designate someone to oversee these programs. The question was raised as to whether the CCC or FEC should monitor the program to make sure that each department is represented. Should there be a standing committee to oversee the program? After brief discussion, the FEC and Dean Bergeron agreed to a faculty forum on March 8th.

President Simmons recently asked Dean Bergeron to staff and Chair a ROTC Committee to research Brown's history on the subject and to revisit the proposal for a ROTC program on campus. This should not be rushed. The Dean would like to see a Faculty Forum on the subject, possibly involving students, and perhaps a paneled discussion after that. Dean Bergeron's goal is to present a report on the ROTC Committee's findings at the May 3 faculty meeting. A motion for vote of the Faculty to approve or disapprove of a ROTC program at Brown would not be presented until the fall. After brief discussion,

the FEC agreed per Dean Bergeron's suggestion to hold a Faculty Forum about ROTC on April 13, 2011.

Clyde Briant, Vice President for Research, was invited to discuss the function of Brown's IRB. In advance of the meeting, the FEC submitted specific questions to VP Briant that they would like addressed. First on their list was "When does the IRB have jurisdiction and when does it not?" Anything that is research must go through the IRB. There is a major miscommunication between students and advisors on this. IRB involvement is not generally required at an individual level. The VP will need to clarify with the FEC if one individual on a long-term project would need to go through the IRB. It seems that how we define a research project seems to be the major issue here. The FEC wanted to know what efforts have been made to improve turnaround time for IRB's approval of projects. VP Briant was pleased to report that after hiring three new people to expedite the approval process, that the turnaround time has been significantly reduced from 10 to 3 weeks. The IRB is looking into how their procedures can be lightened even further. The FEC raised concern about undergraduates being "free agents" with documentation for projects. For example, what would prevent students from taping a study and posting on the Web? Are the Faculty advisors to check on every possible venue for publication of a project? VP Briant referred the FEC to a "research dissemination clause" in a questionnaire published on Brown's Research web site. Prof. Garcia Coll referred to the site and felt that the dissemination clause needed clarification. Students who travel abroad that may keep a diary or take pictures for their projects—where would they fit in? VP Briant will be happy to get clarification of this clause. The FEC wanted to know how the IRB's composition complies with diversity requirements. VP Briant replied they try to balance all diversity requirements but have difficulty with getting qualified people to serve on the IRB. He welcomes suggestions from the FEC. Prof. Garcia Coll recommends having two people from each area of the University on the IRB. Is there someone from the Humanities on the Committee? We did have someone from Music. Perhaps having alternate members would be useful. Prof. Hu-Dehart suggested that people who have used the IRB and no longer use it may be the best candidates. IRB members normally serve for 3 years. It was not clear to the VP if staff members have voting rights so he will report back to FEC on this. When asked if there is an appeal process, the VP can rule on that. The VP is willing to consider the FEC's suggestion to publish "FAQ's" about the IRB on the Research web site. Since there were several issues raised that needed clarification, the FEC will invite VP Briant to another FEC meeting to continue discussion about the IRB.

Dean Peter Weber and Prof. Suzanne Stewart-Steinberg were invited to discuss the annual report from the Graduate Council. Dean Weber expressed enthusiasm for his new position as Dean of the Graduate School and for the work of the Graduate Council, a very important committee which vets much of the graduate school business. He finds it to be a very useful committee which spends a lot of time reviewing new courses. One of the projects of the Council was to research Graduate School files and pull names of all graduate students who are still on the rolls who had not completed their studies and were no longer on campus. The students were then contacted to see if they wish to continue their studies. Prof. Garcia Coll asked about financial aid for the master's level. The

Graduate Council does not get into this. Financial aid has a commitment to undergraduates and doctoral students but not an institutional commitment to graduate student masters. There is, however, some support available to graduate masters through other venues such as the Trinity Program. Dean Weber highlighted some of the points in the written report after which he and Prof. Stewart-Steinberg were invited to present the report at the March 1 faculty meeting.

Prof. Terrie Wetle was invited to discuss a proposal for 4 new academic departments being created from the existing department of Community Health, which has been endorsed by the Academic Priorities Committee (APC). A detailed proposal was submitted to the FEC for review. Over the past 5 years, Community Health has evolved into 4 sections with the intent for them to become departments: Behavioral and Social Sciences, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Health Services Research Policy and Practice. They have been operating and serving the department of Community Health as if they were separate departments for some time now. This change would not require additional funding and would have 2 undergraduate concentrations. They currently have 26 FTE's consisting of 7 different types of Faculty. These divisions would become departments within the Program of Public Health. They hope to move in the direction of someday becoming a School of Public Health, perhaps within another year. Prof. Garcia Coll hopes that the Public Health Program will continue its campus connection with a continuing commitment to undergraduate activities. Prof. Wetle assured the FEC they will remain committed to the University. The proposal will be presented to the Faculty at the April 5 faculty meeting.

The meeting was called to executive session to discuss the Rosenberger Medal of Honor.

Regular session resumed with a brief chair's report from Prof. Garcia Coll. The main topic of conversation at the President's Executive Committee meeting was the Corporation. The Corporation wants to operate on their own agenda and not be driven by the advice of the Administration on how they should function. This "new" Corporation has its own ideas about the tenure status at Brown. According to Dean Vohra, there is nothing to approve by the Faculty where tenure is concerned. The Dean would like to have a meeting with the Faculty to discuss a formula for tenure rate. The FEC proposed having a meeting at 4 PM in April for the Faculty to meet with Dean Vohra. The FEC officers and the Provost talked about the proposal for a professional master's degree program which he would like to have approved at the May faculty meeting. The FEC will sponsor a faculty forum in March on the subject.

The FEC took a look at the preamble for the on-line course evaluation posting to the FEC's website and approved some edits suggested by Dean Bergeron after which the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary