

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

August 30, 2011

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Kapstein Room, Faculty Club

Minutes

Present: Reid Cooper, Peter Monti, Seth Rockman, Philip Rosen, Harold Roth, Peter Shank (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. and new members were introduced.

Prof. Shank announced that Prof. Garcia Coll is taking an emergency leave for the academic year. She graciously offered to help as much as possible through Skype, if necessary. Faculty Rules state that when the Past FEC chair resigns, a current FEC member in his/her 3rd year may be elected by the FEC as a replacement. Prof. Rosen is the only qualified member and will consider the past chair duties and inform the FEC of his decision as soon as possible. The Nominations Committee needs advice on finding a well-qualified humanities faculty member to fill the vacant slot for the FEC vice-chair ballot. Ms. Moreau will send the FEC a list of eligible tenured faculty in the humanities including names of faculty who have declined the invitation to run on the ballot. Prof. Shank would appreciate suggestions from the FEC by early next week. The FEC is in need of female representation.

Professors Shank and Garcia Coll discussed the long tenure debate with Provost Schlissel on two occasions during the summer, the new Provost supportive of raising the bar. The question is how do we define the bar? The Provost has had substantial administrative responsibilities in the past and is thinking broadly about many issues. Prof. Shank stressed the importance of finding a replacement for Valerie Wilson, former associate Provost and Director of Institutional Diversity, as soon as possible. The Provost has found someone to serve as interim associate provost for the first semester so he will have time to review the position before conducting a national search. The interim appointment will be announced to the Brown Community soon. Provost Schlissel would like the FEC to come up with a list of faculty that he can consider for the search committee for this position.

Prof. Shank met with the new Dean of the Faculty, Kevin McLaughlin and will have monthly meetings with him throughout the academic year. The Dean raised the question of whether or not the new tenure procedures should also apply to promotion of associate to full professor and suggested the FEC take this under consideration. Discussion ensued about the 10-year rule and faculty worrying in the past about running out of references. Can the FEC offer suggestions about the number of referees, perhaps reusing some of them? Folklore should not be practiced. It was decided to take this up with Prof. Breuer, TPAC chair, when he meets with the FEC on 9/13.

The FEC will be meeting over lunch with all Committee chairs and vice-chairs on 9/22 from noon until 1:30 p.m. at the Faculty Club.

The Committee then reviewed a draft position document for the Ombudsperson position prepared by Karen Davis in Human Resources. The position will be 50% time. Prof. Roth questioned the length of the term of office which should probably be a 3-year term; should it be renewable? Ms. Moreau will provide the FEC with the draft position document they prepared last semester for comparison. Prof. Shank would appreciate comments on the document by early next week. The scope of the position was briefly discussed. It is important that adjuncts and postdocs have use of the Ombudsperson. Hiring a recently retired professor for the position would be ideal. The FEC will need names for the Ombudsperson selection committee as there should be a faculty committee to evaluate the candidates. Prof. Shank will circulate the names of faculty who served on the last Ombuds selection committee to the FEC. Prof. Cooper volunteered to participate in this search. There should also be an administrator on the Committee. The Hillel House is being considered for the Ombuds office location.

Prof. Shank would like to serve as the FEC representative on the MFEC for this academic year. Since Prof. Garcia Coll will not be serving as FEC Past Chair, the CFED will need a replacement for her. Prof. Rockman agreed to serve for Semester I; Prof. Roth volunteered to serve Semester II. The FEC has to find three faculty members willing to serve on the Nominations Committee, 1 in physical science and 1 in life science for 3-year terms. One social science person is needed for the fall semester to replace Prof. Logan. Names were discussed and Prof. Shank will contact them. Appointments for the Nominations Committee will be ratified at the October 4 faculty meeting.

The FEC devoted the remainder of their time to discussing upcoming issues for the fall semester. The IRB issue is on-going. The FEC's memo of recommendations for changes to the IRB has been sent to the Provost who acknowledged receipt and will be in touch soon. Prof. Roth is serving on the Provost's Committee to review the Academic Year Calendar led by Joe Meisel, and reported on a productive meeting of the committee that was held in June. The Committee reviewed some possibilities for changes to the calendar and will prepare a motion for the FEC to consider for presentation to the Faculty this fall. ROTC is also expected to resurface again in the fall semester.

The meeting was then called to executive session at 4:05 p.m. and resumed for regular business at 4:10 p.m.

A young member of the Brown Community who is an Iraq war veteran is lobbying for observance of fallen veterans on Veterans Day by having one hour of no classes. The FEC will take this under consideration. We can expect the CFED motion to appear again this year after a quorum was called by TPAC chair, Prof. Sanes, at the May 3rd faculty meeting, which resulted in no discussion or vote of the CFED motion because 100 voting faculty members were not present. Prof. Rosen suggested that perhaps the FEC and TPAC's past chair, current chair and vice-chair could get together to discuss the reason

for CFED's charge not to be changed and come to some compromise. Ms. Moreau will circulate CFED's motion to the FEC. It was determined last semester that it would be useful to have a faculty forum about the Conflict of Interest policy as there are various conflicts of interest across the disciplines. The proposed date for the forum is October 18th. VP Clyde Briant and Regina White will be invited to talk about the COI issues for the forum at the 9/13 FEC meeting.

The meeting was again called to executive session from 4:25-4:55 p.m. after which Prof. Shank noted that the new Dean of the Faculty and Provost will be invited to visit with the FEC this fall. Prof. Rockman asked if the perception of a new regime is expected to renew faculty governance. Prof. Cooper feels that there is reason for optimism. Perhaps we can ask the Provost about the probability of having open discussion with the Faculty as to whether or not a high faculty tenure rate at Brown is really a problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary