

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Faculty Meeting—September 5, 2006

President Simmons called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. The minutes of the meeting of May 26, 2006 were approved. Approximately 140 faculty members were present.

President Simmons spoke to the Faculty. She welcomed many back from the summer and welcomed newcomers. She reviewed the outcomes of several searches and spoke of outstanding appointments: David Kertzer, a Brown parent and alumnus, as Provost, former Dean of Engineering Clyde Briant as Vice President for Research, Katherine Bergeron as Dean of the College, and Barbara Stallings as Director of the Watson Institute. Vice President and Secretary to the Corporation Russell Carey, a recent Brown graduate of the class of 1991, will serve as Interim Vice President for Student Life. Prof. Greg Crawford will be Dean of Engineering. Tim Leshan will join us as Director of Government Relations and Ted Widmer as Executive Director of the John Carter Brown Library. The President commented that these were an extraordinarily strong group of people. She also noted that Ellen Waite-Franzen, Vice President for CIS, will be leaving. The interim replacement is Teri-Lynn Thayer. The President said she was pleased that so many of the appointments have enabled us to maintain momentum, which is a reflection of the value recently placed on succession planning.

During the May Corporation meeting, the President spoke of the importance to accelerate the investments we are making and increase the pace of decision making and implementation. In response the Corporation passed a resolution reaffirming their support and calling the Administration to prepare a proposal for redoubling our investment in Brown. This means, among other things, making the College a major focus of planning and investment in the next several years—assessing areas such as advising, teaching, international programs, science and engineering education, student research and internship opportunities, improved housing, and community space and support.

We must also consider the work remaining to achieve our goals for the Medical School. In addition, neither the Graduate School nor opportunities to support and compete for research funds should be neglected.

We must also improve our identity as an international university; failure to do so could leave us wanting in the worldwide competition for the best students. Some questions that arise are: is the campus attracting a sufficiently diverse population of undergraduates? Should we not be among the most prominent universities preparing leaders for different parts of the world? Do our curricular offerings reflect on worldwide economic, social, and political issues? Will our students be able to participate in problem solving and policy making reducing conflict, poverty, and environmental threats? Will they be able to prevent isolationism and xenophobia from taking over? Do our policies, funding priorities, and leadership encourage study of the world. Are we recognized globally for our commitment to education about the world? In the coming year we will develop a strategic plan to improve our identity in this area. She noted both she and the Provost have a long history in international education.

Last summer the President examined whether we have made the right decisions over the past five years. It is always difficult to make choices among competing opportunities but dealing with

such a difficulty is the central work in strengthening the University and the difficulty should not paralyze us. The President is impatient to see Brown meet its goals.

She spoke of the success of the campaign, now more than halfway to its \$1.40 billion goal. The Annual Fund last year broke the \$30 million mark. She thanked the faculty for their support and the leaders of the campaign, Ron Vanden Dorpel and Neil Steinberg. She spoke of future kickoff events in London, China, and several cities in the United States.

Prof. Banchoff asked about a need-blind admission policy for foreign students—a proposal related to financial aid for foreign students will go to the Corporation at their next meeting. The President is committed to a diverse group of international students. Professor Beeman asked about financial aid for transfer student—such is now given but not yet up to need-blind.

Provost Kertzer spoke next. He is delighted to be serving as Provost. He thanked Vice President Briant and Dean Bergeron for taking on new responsibilities. He welcomed Pam O’Neil as Associate Provost dealing with space issues and issues related to the Division of Biology and Medicine. In December all office openings in the Provost’s Office will be filled, when Shelley Stephenson arrives. She will coordinate many initiatives in the humanities and social sciences.

He was pleased to announce that he had just received word that Brown would receive a \$3.3 million award from the Institutional Transformation Program at NSF. The program at Brown will provide faculty development programs to improve the lives of all faculty but, in particular, women science faculty.

Before speaking of new initiatives, he commented that the Sabbatical Leave Policy is moving along. The three new initiatives are:

1. Health of the College. The indicators are certainly good but we should not rest on our laurels. The “New” curriculum needs a clear-eyed critique; it is not to be undermined but advanced. The undergraduate science curriculum needs further strengthening, building on the science cohort efforts of last year. A faculty group will be assembled to move this along.
2. Making Brown a true World University. A faculty committee will be appointed to generate ideas—faculty leadership is critical
3. Future of the Brown Medical School. A working group has been established. Among other topics they will consider are links to the teaching hospitals and how we can build the Medical School as a major center of biomedical research.

Prof. Josephson asked if added foreign students would reduce the number of domestic students—it is premature to decide. The President emphasized we would not have percentage quotas for international students but would select the best students. Prof. Raaflaub asked about the criterion for “best” students and suggested a faculty committee study this matter. The President commented that the Admission Office did a very good job in selecting students and that part of the study of the College could include looking at admission guidelines.

Professor Ann Dill, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, then spoke. Prof. Dill welcomed Prof Colwill, chairperson-elect of the FEC. She also welcomed new faculty members and drew the attention of people to the brochures describing these new faculty members.

She said an Ombudsperson has been selected. This post had been discussed three years and has been considered at length by the FEC. This is a half-time post, reporting to the President. Prof. Dill was very pleased to announce that Dr. Flora Keshgegian has been appointed. Dr. Keshgegian has served at Brown in the Chaplin's Office and has also had a distinguished faculty career. She will be an advocate for fairness, a problem solver. Dr. Keshgegian briefly greeted the Faculty. Her email address is ombuds@brown.edu. She urged faculty members to make use of her services earlier, rather than later. She said she would be available to speak to groups, as well as individuals.

The FEC will address several issues this year:

1. The Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on the Campaign
2. Concerns of women faculty as delineated in a recent survey. The FEC will work with the Dean of the Faculty Office here.
3. Electronic "green" voting for faculty officers and committee members
4. Leave policies for Research faculty
5. The sabbatical leave policy mentioned by the Provost
6. Evaluation of our new (3-year old) committee structure

Prof. Dill said she was delighted to see so many people at the meeting and urged all to attend future meetings.

Prof. Beeman reminded the Faculty that no voting faculty members should schedule university events conflicting with the time of a scheduled Faculty Meeting.

Prof. Spoehr spoke for the Committee on Nominations. First, she presented the results of elections to faculty officers—in this case, the Secretary of the Faculty Forum—and to certain faculty committees. These were:

BALLOT ELECTION RESULTS:

FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ruth Colwill (Psychology) Vice-Chair replacing Michel-Andre Bossy (French Studies) to 6/30/09.
Geoffrey Russom (English) replacing Esther Whitfield (Comparative Literature) to 6/30/09.
Chad Jenkins (Computer Science) replacing Donald Forsyth (Geological Sciences) to 6/30/08.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Evelyn Hu-Dehart (History) replacing Hilary Silver (Sociology) to 6/30/09.
Steven McGarvey (Community Health) replacing Susan Dickstein (Psychiatry) to 6/30/09.
Joseph Rován (Music) replacing Stephen Foley (English) to 6/30/09.

TENURE, PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Douglas Anderson (Anthropology) replacing William Simmons (Anthropology) to 6/30/09.
Kim Boekelheide (Pathology and Laboratory Medicine) replacing Christine Janis (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology) to 6/30/09.
Sharvan Kumar (Engineering) replacing Karen Fischer (Geological Sciences) to 6/30/09.
Massimo Riva (Italian Studies) replacing Harold Roth (Religious Studies) to 6/30/09.
Gary Wessel (MCB) replacing Barry Connors (Neuroscience) to 6/30/08.

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY IN HIRING

Robert Lee (American Civilization) replacing James Green (History) to 6/30/09.

Maud Mandel (Judaic Studies and History) filling an existing vacancy to 6/30/09.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mary Ann Doane (MCM) replacing Hye-Sook Wang (E. Asian Studies) to 6/30/09.

Gerald Guralnik (Physics) replacing Chung-I Tan (Physics) to 6/30/09.

FACULTY COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCE

Regular Members:

Mary Louise Gill (Classics) replacing William Keach (English) to 6/30/09.

Alan Zuckerman (Political Science) replacing Mary Gluck (History) to 6/30/09.

Alternates:

Constantine Dafermos (Applied Mathematics) and Pauline Jacobson (Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences) serving to 6/30/09.

NOMINATION FOR SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY FORUM

Laurie Heller (Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences) replacing Lewis Seifert (French Studies) to June 30, 2007

Prof. Spoehr then presented nominations to other faculty committees.

NOMINATIONS RECOMMENDED TO THE FACULTY FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (appointments effective immediately):

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES

Jin Li (Education) replacing Melani Cammett (Political Science) to December 31, 2007.

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COUNCIL

William Suggs (Chemistry) to an existing vacancy to June 30, 2009

Leslie Welch (Psychology) replacing James Drier (Philosophy) to June 30, 2009

FACULTY RESUMED UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION POLICY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Susan Harvey (Religious Studies) replacing Sharon Swartz (MPPB) to June 30, 2009

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Jane Sokolosky (German Studies) replacing Ruth Colwill (Psychology) to February 28, 2007

TENURE, PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Philip Rosen (MCM) replacing Rey Chow (MCM) to June 30, 2007

George Borts (Economics) replacing Dennis Hogan (Sociology) to December 31, 2006

GRADUATE COUNCIL

Steven Reiss (Computer Science) replacing Malcom Rutherford (Geology) to June 30, 2007

The President asked for further nominations or questions. None were made. The slate was elected on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM to the Faculty Reception.

Respectfully submitted,

Barrett Hazeltine
Secretary of the Faculty