

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Meeting

**March 21, 2006**

**3:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Corporation Room, University Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Bob Pelcovits, Chair; Ann Dill, Vice Chair; Michel-André Bossy, Past Chair, Albert Dahlberg, Svetlana Evdokimova, Marida Hollos, James Padbury, William Rakowski, and Esther Whitfield.

Guests: Andrew Campbell, David Rand

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Minutes of the 3/14 FEC meeting were approved with some minor changes.

Professor Pelcovits gave a Chair's report. President Simmons met recently with the FEC officers on two occasions to discuss the Provost's replacement and outlined how the search will be conducted. An internal search is favored over an external one because an internal person would know more about the University's issues where someone from outside Brown would bring in their own ideas. This is not the time for new visions and ideas; it is a time for consolidation and reconciliation. The President would like to redefine the Provost's job description so that it is not so vast. Wearing fewer hats will result in a stronger Provost.

At the President's request, the FEC discussed several nominees they suggest for the Provost's Search Committee keeping in mind that disciplinary balance is important. Of equal importance is the perspective of a junior faculty person under a senior member. The FEC will think about some junior people to suggest.

President Simmons endorsed the FEC's nominee for the Rosenberger Medal of Honor whose name will be brought before the faculty at the April 4 faculty meeting for a vote. Professor Pelcovits will call the meeting to Executive Session during his FEC report for this purpose.

The Faculty Forum on the Science Cohort was an informative one giving faculty a chance to voice their opinion about science education in general. Task forces are being formed to review undergraduate education, one of which will review science education.

Benefits for research faculty and the Faculty Development Advisory Board will be discussed at the next FEC meeting instead of today.

Professor David Rand, vice-chair of the Academic Priorities Committee (APC), highlighted the annual written report submitted to the FEC with the agenda. The APC spent considerable time over the past year discussing proposals for degree-granting entities including a new Certificate Program in Summer and Continuing Studies, Integrative Science Program and Medical School expansion. It was a year of review and making sure that implementation of the Academic Enrichment Initiatives are proceeding as planned. Directors and representatives of programs the

APC supported over the past few years were invited to APC meetings to present progress reports on the state of their initiatives. The reports were evaluated by the APC who prepared letters offering comments and suggestions on how the initiatives can best achieve the intended goals of the Academic Enrichment Initiative and Brown in general. Key agenda items covered in the past year included a Center for Computational Molecular Biology, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities, Environmental Change Initiative, Center for Nanoscience and Soft Matter, Cogut Center for the Humanities, Spatial Structures in the Social Science, and Political Theory Project. A new proposal for a Brown University Aids Center is currently under consideration by the APC. Professor Rand will present the APC report at the April 4 faculty meeting.

The FEC discussed suggestions for the Opening Convocation Speaker for next September which they will bring to the attention of President Simmons.

Professor Andrew Campbell, vice-chair of the University Resources Committee (URC), was invited to discuss the URC annual report to the President. It is his second year on the Committee, which he feels is running quite effectively. Faculty members do have a voice. The URC proposed several cost-cutting measures for Brown's budget next academic year making sure that employees were taken into consideration. The cost of utilities is an unfortunate turn of events which had a significant impact on the budget. The cost to implement the Banner System also impacted how the budget will be laid out next year. There will need to be adjustments to more efficiently allocate monies in the departments and ensure better management of the units. Staff positions will be studied to determine if they are positioned where needed and effective. Overall, it is a good budget, the Campaign doing well.

Discussion ensued with regard to questions about specific figures in the budget and graduate student tuition costs and stipends as well as graduate student health insurance costs. The URC has not yet discussed graduate student tuition costs to grants. Professor Campbell will present the report at the April 4 faculty meeting.

Suggested candidates for the Nominations Committee ballot were discussed. Professor Bossy will contact people in the humanities, Professor Dahlberg the life/medical sciences, and Professor Dill the social sciences. All will report on the results of their work as it becomes available.

Professor Dahlberg noted that he will be on leave Semester I next academic year, so the Nominations Committee will need to nominate a replacement at the May 2 faculty meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau  
Secretary