

Faculty Executive Committee Meeting

April 26, 2011

Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

Present: Cynthia Garcia Coll, Chair, Chung-I Tan, Philip Rosen, Hal Roth, Susan Allen, Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Reid Cooper, Benjamin Raphael.

The meeting opened at 3pm in the Corporation Room, U.H. Dick Spies, Executive VP for Planning/Senior Advisor to the President, and Margaret Klawunn, Vice President for Student Life & Student Services visited the FEC to present the Report from the Athletics Review Committee for President Ruth Simmons advising her report to the Corporation. Copies were made available to the FEC including the committee's Charge & Principles.

The committee's extensive report was compiled over a 90 day period and comprised a thorough review of the University's athletic programs, admission policies, staffing and facilities. The committee compared the University's programs with peer institutions and referred to Title 9 guidelines. Under such guidelines the presenters highlighted several points of interest to alumni, students and faculty.

The first focus indicates the athletic programs are underfunded and understaffed with facilities lacking in scope and scale. The committee recommends the University add resources. Budget increases would improve the compensation to staff and the coaching pool. Additional funds are needed to bring facilities up to par with the needs of individual sports as well peer institutions. Examples cited included the maintenance of existing fields, stadia, pools and equipment.

Athletics inspires a spirited interest in participants and alumni which informed the committee's work. The athletics program of Brown includes 37 individual sports. The committee recommends the number of sports be reduced from 37 to 34, bringing Brown into the mid range of peer institutions below Harvard, Princeton and Yale but equal to Dartmouth. The proposed reduction has generated a response from participants, such as wrestling, fencing and women's sailing. Prominent alumni, for example Governor Lincoln Chaffee, former Captain of the Brown wrestling team, voiced support for his squad. FEC member Hal Roth asked if fencing was indeed on the list and mentioned he fenced against Brown while an undergraduate. Some sports have a long history with the University. The Crew is the oldest started in 1857 whereas Fencing dates to before 1900. Length of participation was not considered relevant by the committee. Students staged demonstrations on the Green to arouse interest and support for their sports.

In addition to reducing the number of sports, the committee recommends the reduction of sports admission slots. The FEC discussed the subject of sports admissions, the long arc of recruiting student athletes, often beginning in their junior year in High School, and the balance between commitment to a sport and academics. The committee assured the FEC that academic achievement and other factors in admissions did not yield to athletic ability or performance. The timing of team elimination was discussed, in terms of competitiveness, staffing, and the impact upon the student's choices for admission. Peer institutions with larger resources could woo

prospective students with lush financial aid packages and better coaching for excellence in competitive sport.

Net savings to the University in reducing sports from 37 to 34 teams would save the University \$150,000 per year. However money is not the only issue at hand. Conforming to Title 9 as well as a legal obligation requires a larger investment in facilities such as locker rooms.

The general interpretation of Title 9 guidelines is that support for athletics be proportionate. This is a fine art, some sports being gender biased, football being an example. Funding must be proportionally distributed across the University's athletic programs.

Much general discussion followed with individual questions from the FEC to the committee chairs. Of particular interest was the balance between academic and athletic activities, such as class scheduling. Baseball was cited as an example the team could only train after 9 p.m. to allow full team practice free from class scheduling.

Dean Katherine Bergeron and Professor Lewis Seifert presented the College Curriculum Council (CCC) Annual Report. Copies were distributed to the FEC.

Dean Bergeron discussed the CCC's major effort this year to determine the number of concentrations at the University, 75, which is twice as many as peer institutions. All concentrations are equally rigorous and qualify for NEASC accreditation which is already at the halfway point for re-evaluation. The review of concentrations motivates further innovation.

The Dean brought up the methodology for determining the number of Topics. This is the first year a firm count could be made of concentrations as methods varied between departments. The basis of topics was from the world of paper and is no longer applicable under the Banner system. The Banner system therefore allows a more precise way of determining Topics and Concentrations. The shift in perspective from paper to electronic frames of reference will have other far reaching impact on other areas of the University.

Professor John Cherry presented the Academic Priorities Committee (APC) Annual Report. The APC is in its second year of a four year cycle of program review. The APC met with the Chairs of half of the 13 departments it reviewed. Considerable attention focused upon the Haffenreffer Museum, its probable future location, the satellite exhibit space at Manning Chapel, and especially the value of the collections as teaching tools. The APC report was circulated among the FEC and there was general discussion about use of the lodge at the Haffenreffer, comments of the remoteness of the Bristol site, and possible use of the lodge for retreats.

Clyde Briant, Vice-President for Research and Regina White Associate Vice-President Research Administration visited the FEC to discuss Internal Review Board (IRB) procedures and the impact IRB has upon human subjects for research and the effect the IRB has upon student research. Indeed the complexity of IRB procedure is a study within itself and FEC members mentioned the importance of mastering IRB steps as basic to research. The cumbersome timing of the method is at odds with the academic year and confines research to particular time periods. The IRB representatives made brief remarks on conflict of interest on campus and drew a distinction between campus based and hospital based research. Hospital based research has guidelines to consider as defined by the affiliated hospitals. There was complex and detailed discussion of various FEC experiences with IRB and their teaching mission. Although efforts are

made to streamline procedure the IRB remains a complex and evolving procedure. References were made to a front page article in the Chronicle of Higher Education describing many universities as opting out of the IRB.

FEC Chair, Cynthia Garcia Coll, discussed the topics on the upcoming May 3 Faculty Meeting. The task force on Language Certification and the discussion during the Faculty Forum, the Faculty Forum on ROTC, the FEC reception for the new Provost were mentioned, and she announced that Dean of Faculty Rajiv Vohra is returning to teaching in the Economics Department. The FEC discussed the pricing structure of Media Services and the outsized expenses in University conferences and events.

The FEC also discussed the May 3 Faculty Meeting. The Motion regarding calendar changes was tabled in light of new Department of Education guidelines and other complications. The Motion for changes in the Committee for Faculty Equity and Diversity (CFED) charge was accepted and it was suggested that the Rationale be re-written for a better presentation of the Motion. Also, it was suggested that CFED's Charge be included in the May 3 Faculty Meeting Agenda along with the Rationale and Motion.

The FEC wishes to invite Michael Pickett and Tim Wells, of Information Services, to the next FEC meeting to discuss expenses associated with Media Services. The FEC also wishes for a further explanation of the price structures for University space, especially unique events that compliment but are not part of the curriculum. Examples, such as the Year of China events, are abundant and deserve further scrutiny. Guests to the FEC from the Conferences and Events office are desired for next September.

The meeting closed at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Moorehead
Secretary Pro Tem for the FEC