

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

October 14, 2008

3:00-3:55 p.m.

Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

Present: James Dreier, Chair; Gerald Diebold, Vice-chair; Susan Allen, Cynthia Garcia Coll, Penelope Dennehy, Lina Fruzzetti, Geoffrey Russom, Gabriel Taubin, Nicolas Wey-Gomez

Guests: Stephen Lassonde

Professor James Dreier opened the meeting at 3:04 p.m. Minutes of the 9/23/08 FEC meeting were approved.

Professor Dreier gave a chair's report. Brown's Conflict of Interest Policy is currently under review by the University. The FEC officers spoke to the Provost about the portion of the Policy that deals with Conflict of Commitment. The financial aspect of the Policy is of immediate concern to Brown. There will be opportunity for faculty input during the Research Advisory Board's review of the Policy who will be responsible for keeping the FEC informed.

The FEC officers and President Simmons talked mainly about the Ombudsperson search. It was decided that faculty and staff will share the position subject to a one-year review. The person who was originally chosen by the search committee for the part-time position will be offered the full-time position. If the individual accepts, he/she will be asked after one year if handling staff problems was too much for one person to handle. If so, a part-time person may be hired to assist with the workload. The position will be partly funded by Human Resources and Associate Provost Brenda Allen will do the hiring for the position.

A Working Group is being formed to study the use of Start-Up and Research Money and to create a policy on how the money should be used. To date, no faculty members have been recruited to serve on the Working Group, only administrators. Prof. Dreier would appreciate suggestions from the FEC. There was some difference of opinion on the significance of such a policy.

The Provost informed FEC officers that the Faculty Resumed Undergraduate Education and Policy Admission Committee is about to go out of existence because it will no longer have anything to do. RUE admissions cannot be done separately from undergraduate admissions anymore because of a lawsuit that was filed. There has been no committee since the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid (CAFA) that has had input into admissions. The College Advisory Board (CAB) subsumed CAFA's duties when the new governance system was created but the CAB has not been operational under Dean Bergeron for a couple of years now. We need faculty input into the admission process. Should the Dean of the College create another committee or revive the CAB? Years ago, there used to be faculty input into admissions but it disappeared. Have admission standards and criteria changed in recent years? The FEC thinks so.

Professor Dreier invited Dean Stephen Lassonde, Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) to join the FEC for a discussion about the CAS annual report. Dean Lassonde distributed

a packet that included the annual report, a statistical report on academic standing during the past 10 years, and the new student handbook. The Handbook will be available on-line soon. It would be useful for the Faculty to get a copy of the Handbook. Dean Lassonde will see to it that Faculty gets copies. The CAS is now meeting ten times a year so that more time can be devoted to discussing its practices and procedures. Dean Lassonde started an orientation program last year to educate new CAS faculty members on the Committee's policies and procedures. A Dean's School has been established in conjunction with the Registrar's office which meets weekly with new deans during their first semester on the job to orient them on academic regulations and with CAS's practices and procedures.

The Dean of the College no longer sits on the CAS and only hears cases about petitions that have been rejected. The advising process is working well for students returning as readmits. The FEC noticed that there were significantly more suspensions in June than in January. Is this normal? Yes, suspensions are rare in January mainly because of communication issues during winter break. The large number of suspensions in June of last year may have included students who were on serious warning. The Committee's process has been much more inclusive than in the past, the CAS reviewing more different kinds of cases than they did before causing some overlap in the numbers. The CAS has been working on creating better matches for black and Latino students with their advisors and will look into more ways to actively address the issue before it becomes too serious. The CAS followed up last year with students who were on Serious Warning to make sure each and every one got in to see a dean. There is just not enough staff support to see those students who are on Warning. The Committee is spending more time being active in finding out early in the academic year when a student is in trouble. The FEC asked if there was ever an overlap of cases between CAS and the Standing Committee on the Academic Code. It seems that could be a real possibility. Dean Lassonde will make a note to be aware of this. The Dean will present the annual report at the November 4 faculty meeting.

Professor Dreier resumed his chair's report. There is no easy solution to four specific issues that have been identified as problematic with the grievance procedures as they are currently written in the Faculty Rules and Regulations. The meeting was called to executive session to discuss them.

Professor Dreier noted that a replacement in the physical sciences will be needed for someone on the Nominations Committee who is going on leave in second semester. The FEC is responsible for finding a replacement. Suggestions from the FEC are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. to the Faculty Forum on Brown's self-study of the re-accreditation process.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary