

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting
September 1, 2010

President Simmons called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m., and a motion to adjourn no later than 6:30 p.m. was approved. The minutes of the May 28 meeting were approved without correction.

Professor Garcia Coll wished *buenas tardes* to the assembly and introduced the officers who had been busily working on FEC business since July 1: Susan Allen, Reid Cooper, Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Philip Rosen, Harold Roth, Peter Shank, Vice-Chair and Chung-I Tan, Past Chair. She reviewed current plans and concerns of the FEC, beginning with the consideration of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure continued from the spring, with a Faculty Forum scheduled for September 21 on the second motion and Faculty Fora scheduled every month for consideration of the remaining motions one at a time. Reporting on nominations for committees from the total of 750 faculty members, she noted the TPAC nominations still in process. Other concerns are gathering information in view of necessary changes in policy for the Institutional Research Board; reviewing teaching evaluation in response to faculty inquiries; implementing faculty voting by electronic clickers when so moved; and the calendar of the academic year. Professor Garcia Coll looks forward to working with colleagues to provide the best support for all faculty work in research and teaching.

Mr. Patterson, reporting for the Nominations Committee, submitted the following nominations for approval:

Nominations recommended to the Faculty for committee appointments to be effective immediately:

Tenure, Promotion and Appointments Committee (TPAC)

Bill Simmons (Anthropology) replacing Lina Fruzzetti (Anthropology) to 12/31/10

Peter Howitt (Economics) replacing Gregory Elliott (Sociology) to 12/31/10

Committee on Medical Faculty Appointments (CMFA)

Harold Cook (History) replacing Robert Hurt (Engineering) to 6/30/11

These nominations were approved without dissent. He noted that with a week and one-half left before elections were to be called, the committee was still at work on securing nominees for TPAC (one humanities, one social sciences), and were about half-way there. Since so many cannot serve, the work of the committee is difficult, and he urged colleagues who find service on university committees in the universe of possibility to volunteer.

President Simmons welcomed the faculty to the opening of the academic year, especially the twenty-nine faculty members just joining us, whose faces appear in a flyer prepared to celebrate their arrival; they are, like the entering class, the most beautiful and handsome ever. She confessed to a passing fear that Professor Garcia Coll would join

Manny Ramirez of the White Sox in a language preference, and invited all to join her at the reception at the President's House following the meeting. She noted that among the class of 2014 who just passed through the gates, 20% were valedictorians and 93% in the top 10% of their graduating class. 46% are on financial aid, up from 39% last year, thus pushing Brown closer to its peers. The overall percentage of students on financial aid, which had dipped last year, is now 43%. 14% are in the first generation of their families to attend college, and 61% come from public secondary schools. She characterized the present moment as interesting and challenging for the University, with a pressing demand that choices be prudently made as the University moves forward. In a forthcoming letter and again later this fall, the Provost and the Vice-President for Finance and Administration will report on the budget and preview the following year, and she gave a summary in light of the organizational planning process last year of how Brown finished the 2010 Fiscal Year. We sought and achieved a reduction in the projected deficit. Beginning with a deficit projected at \$95 million, we secured over a two-year period reductions needed to address \$65 million of the revenue shortfall expected due to the drop in the value of the endowment during the economic crisis. We do not expect another round of budget cuts, but we do need to focus on increasing revenue. Last year's final budget results were better than expected, due to increased research support, fundraising support, and campus-wide expense trimming, for all of which the President offered her thanks. The Campaign results have proven extremely helpful at this time. She introduced to the faculty Steven King as the new Senior Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Affairs, a member of the class of 1991. The Brown Annual Fund, which tripled in size over recent years, has reached a new high. Total donor numbers reversed a two-year decline and reached the highest total in the history of the fund, placing Brown third in the Ivy League in the size of annual funds, behind Princeton and Dartmouth, and, the President affirmed, we will take them. These results also place Brown sixth nationally in alumni giving. Non alumni parent giving continues to excel, with a new record of \$7.1 million. While overall new gifts and pledges were down 24%, total cash giving was \$166,780,000. The Campaign is slated to finish in December and we are day by day closer to the increased goal set after exceeding the original target. By the end of fiscal 2009-10, the Campaign total was \$1,542,253,321. President Simmons stated her wish to set the overall well-being of our enterprise before our sight, given the past two years of economic uncertainty, the challenges facing universities, and recent events on campus. The state of the University is excellent. But academics like to qualify, and all distinguished universities push forward towards new opportunities, raised sights, and new directions. Such decisions emerge from help debate as academic communities think together about how to improve what they are doing. While Brown could be satisfied with its number 15 ranking in *US News*, it is good, proper, and necessary to ask whether there is more we can do to improve the prospects of the University. This discussion takes place at all top-ranked institutions. It often takes decades for policies to take effect and for improvements to take root in a way sufficient to enhance a university's worldwide reputation. There will be differences of opinion about the right course, but it is helpful to remember that we are all here for a purpose larger than defending one view or defeating another. The choices that we are entrusted to make are not in the narrow interest of our time. They cannot be if they are to preserve the strength of the University over time. The President expressed the hope that we will continue to debate our course in

that spirit and in the utmost spirit of collegiality that we have so long valued in our community. She concluded that she looked forward to the Faculty Fora scheduled once a month, and she declined to suggest that the number planned was excessive.

Provost Kertzer promised his remarks would be brief, since the reception awaited. He welcomed Peter Weber as the new Dean of the Graduate School, and welcomed new faculty. New academic initiatives include the School of Engineering with a search underway for a dean and a space committee formed to look into the needs of Engineering and allied sciences, where space shortages leave many hard pressed. He reviewed the progress of faculty working on the creation of a School of Public Health with the transformation of Community Health into four new departments. He declined to add to the remarks of Professor Garcia Coll and the President on the forthcoming Faculty Forum September 21st and returning to the business emerging out of the report of the ad hoc Committee last spring with consideration of the second proposed motion at the October faculty meeting and the remaining motions at subsequent fora. He remarked that the long promised NRC report evaluating graduate programs was indeed likely to reach publication soon later in September, with new rankings of programs, and stated that he will return with a response to the report after consulting with the Corporation. He closed his report with news of the well-received renovation of Faunce House as the Roberts Campus Center; of the swift approach of the Creative Arts Center towards completion, a structure that is engaging inside as well as outside; and of the opening of the new Center for Medical Education scheduled for opening in the coming academic year. In order to allow for the renovation of Metcalf, the resident members of the Department of Cognitive, Linguistic, and Psychological Sciences have decamped to Wayland Square, and work is well underway, with completion anticipated for a move back to Metcalf over the course of the first semester 2010-11. He thanked all those working on progress on these many initiatives, and expressed how much he was looking forward to seeing colleagues at the President's reception.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Merriam Foley
Secretary of the Faculty