

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Meeting

**October 10, 2006**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Corporation Room, University Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Ann Dill, Chair; Ruth Colwill, Vice-chair; Bob Pelcovits, Past Chair; Lundy Braun, Svetlana Evdokimova, Nancy Jacobs, Chad Jenkins, Jody Rich, William Rakowski, and Geoffrey Russom.

Guests: Pat Arant, Lewis Lipsitt, Peter Richardson

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. Minutes of the 9/26 meeting were approved as submitted.

Professor Dill gave a Chair's report. The FEC officers' meeting with President Simmons was focused almost entirely on improving Brown's standing and visibility as an international leader in higher education and on how to build funding for international initiatives into the Campaign for Academic Enrichment. The President would like a prioritized list from the FEC of suggested uses for funds for international purposes. Priorities discussed included financial aid for international students, fellowships to bring researchers and future leaders to Brown, connections to and from Brown to remote classrooms, faculty exchange, and more travel funds to support faculty collaboration with other countries. The FEC feels it is important that Brown focus first on building the course strengths that we currently have and then to expand internationally to include strategic areas such as China, Brazil, India, Russia and Africa, while leaving open opportunities for new innovations. As part of the strategic planning effort for international initiatives, the Provost intends to appoint a vice president for international programs to undertake a review of international curricular offerings, expand programs for student and faculty exchange, and improve opportunities for international internships for students as well as other initiatives. The FEC will be providing names of candidates for this position.

The FEC officers had an introductory meeting with Dean Katherine Bergeron and offered the FEC's assistance in helping her to achieve her goals for revitalizing the College. The Dean is considering whether or not to reconvene the College Advisory Board. They are in an on-going discussion with her about it.

At a meeting with the Corporation on October 6, the FEC officers brought several items to the table for discussion including the impact of administrative changes on faculty and faculty governance, internationalization, revitalization of the College, and individual arrangements vs. Policy on leaves, teaching and other issues. The FEC also commented on how they thought the Plan for Academic Enrichment is going. The COACHE survey, a confidential document, was discussed as well.

The FEC discussed the proposal for a Committee on Retirement Issues with Professors Lewis Lipsitt, Peter Richardson, and Pat Arant. President Simmons voiced concern that the proposed

Committee could be viewed as an interest group, which the committee charge seems to imply where it states “promote the welfare”. Although the President is not opposed to the idea, she asked that the FEC pursue it further before bringing it to the Faculty. Retirees are a great resource to the University and this proposal is worth pursuing.

Discussion ensued with regard to revising language in the charge and how the committee could provide some benefit to the University. Strengthening the charge by including a positive collegiate relationship with Brown would redirect some of the concerns. As the Society of the Elderbears, the group is already speaking with the Alumni and Development offices and sits on dissertation committees. The Elderbears are also tutoring and mentoring retirees. Professor Lipsitt noted this is not a unique request because such committees and organizations exist at other universities such as Yale and Oxford. Professor Lipsitt will work on revising the language of the charge as suggested by the FEC so it can be brought to the Faculty as soon as possible. Professor Pelcovits will assist him.

The order of business at the October faculty meeting was changed in order to allow for more meaningful interaction between faculty and the administration. The FEC thought it worked well and would like to give it another test at the November faculty meeting. It was suggested the meeting be held at a different venue on campus due to poor lighting and acoustics in Salomon 001, something to consider for the future.

Professor Dill has been in touch with the Chaplain and Russell Carey about conducting Veteran’s Day ceremonies on campus to honor those who gave their lives for our country as well as supporting those who have returned from military service. There will be a wreath-laying ceremony and perhaps a reading of Veteran war dead. She is working on getting some figures on staff and faculty members who are Veterans. It is important to have a broadly conceived program. ROTC students may wish to form an honor guard. A Brown graduate perhaps from the Medical School could be a speaker. Professor Dill will bring these suggestions to the Chaplain’s attention.

The proposed Leave Policy was brought to the table again for further discussion. Of particular concern to the FEC is that (1) the Policy be as flexible as possible in order to provide incentives for faculty to apply for external funding, and (2) to help faculty identify ways to supplement salaries to make up the 12.5% decrease over the course of a year in which a one-semester leave at 75% salary is taken. The FEC discussed various aspects of the Policy where changes in the language could be made in order to achieve these goals. The next step will be to invite Dean Vohra and Professor Wharton, FAC chair, to talk with the FEC about their concerns. Professor Dill recently spoke with Professor Wharton who liked the idea of having a version of the Leave Policy posted on the Web for faculty feedback on the Faculty Governance sounding board.

The FEC discussed a proposal to amend the Faculty Rules with regard to appointing the Chair of the Committee on Commencement Speakers. The Committee’s organization currently states that the President appoints the chair and fixes the term of office. Since Commencement Speakers is now a standing committee of the College Advisory Board, it is proposed that the language be amended to read that the Dean of the College appoints the chair. Language used for this change will be consistent with the language used in the Faculty Rules for appointing the chair of the Committee on Academic Standing. The FEC voted and approved unanimously to amend the Faculty Rules as discussed and bring it to the faculty for a vote on November 7.

When the Grievance Committee was created, there was no language written into the Faculty Rules about a specific procedure for electing alternate members who are called upon when there

is a conflict of interest with a regular committee member. Furthermore, the Nominations Committee has found it particularly difficult to find suitable candidates for both the regular and alternate slates. After discussion, the FEC approved unanimously a revision to the Grievance Committee's "Method of Election" whereby all runners up in the regular Grievance Committee ballot election will serve as potential alternates, with the final choice of alternates to be made by the regular members of the Grievance Committee. Professor Dill will revise the language and circulate it to the FEC for final approval before putting it on the November 7 faculty meeting agenda.

Discussion regarding the evaluation of our committee structure and on-line voting system for faculty is postponed until the October 24 FEC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau  
Secretary