

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Meeting**

**November 13, 2007  
3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Corporation Room, University Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Ruth Colwill, Chair; James Dreier, Vice-chair; Ann Dill, Past Chair; James Campbell, Svetlana Evdokimova, Chad Jenkins, Geoffrey Russom, Robert Smith, Gabriel Taubin

Guests: Olakunle George, David Lowe, Peter Weber

Professor Colwill called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Minutes of 10/23/07 were approved.

Professor Colwill gave a Chair's Report. The FEC officers met recently with President Simmons. They discussed the Committee on Diversity in Hiring's (CDH) role in the Tenure, Promotion and Appointments Committee (TPAC) process and related issues. The FEC, President Simmons and the CDH will be meeting to discuss this on December 11. The FEC officers updated the President on the FEC's review of the Ombuds Office and talked with her about the Search Committee for vice-president for Campus Life and Student Services. Mr. Tim Leshan, Brown's liaison with Washington DC, has recently learned about some U.S. government initiatives that may impact Brown's faculty. The President suggested this would be a good topic for discussion at a University faculty meeting. The FEC decided to invite Mr. Leshan to speak with them first about the issues to consider if and how he should address the Faculty at a future University faculty meeting.

At the President's Executive Committee meeting last week, the process for the current review of the Plan for Academic Enrichment was discussed. The President with input from her Cabinet will be drafting the final set of recommendations to be taken to the Corporation. However, all information collected in the course of the review will be brought to the February faculty meeting for discussion. There will be no filtering of feedback prior to that point. Other issues discussed at the Executive Committee meeting included parking issues, excellence in teaching, and the Department of Justice hearings regarding rights of workers in sweatshops that supply clothing to Brown and other institutions.

Names for the search committee for Vice President of Campus Life and Student Services were discussed. Issues were raised about the tenure status, university experience and diversity of the committee membership.

A reception from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in upper Salomon is being planned prior to the December 4 faculty meeting in recognition of faculty, student and staff participation in faculty governance. A holiday party will follow the faculty meeting from 5:30-7:00 p.m. to which all faculty members, senior administrators and deans are invited.

Professor David Lowe, vice-chair of the Computing Advisory Board (CAB), joined the FEC for discussion regarding proposed changes to the Board's charge and membership. Meetings are

being held more often this year. Student members are very often busy and cannot attend meetings so the CAB would like to increase the number of undergraduate and graduate students on its roster from one to two in each category. They would like to have broad representation of CAB faculty members across the University including all four academic disciplines. To preserve continuity, they propose to extend the current two year terms of service for faculty members to 3 years. The CAB would also like to make the Director for the Center of Computation an ex-officio member and to appoint one of the undergraduate members from the UCS Computing Committee. These changes will need to be formalized in the CAB's charge. The FEC questioned whether or not extending terms would make it more difficult to find people willing to serve. The FEC will discuss these proposals and Professor Colwill will be in touch about the next step after she has consulted with the Parliamentarian.

Professor Colwill continued with her Chair's remarks reporting on the results of the Ombuds survey. Respondents favored either continuing the pilot program or making the office permanent. It is clear that the FEC will not suggest that the office be terminated, and the FEC agreed that Ms. Keshgegian should be informed of this. If the office were to become permanent, there will need to be a search. Professor Colwill will prepare a confidential draft report for the FEC's review.

Students who participated in the UCS/FEC roundtable summit will be producing a document about their views and concerns regarding the College for the FEC. They will also be sharing it with Dean Bergeron. The FEC felt this group discussion was well worth their time and effort. Professor Colwill noted that students at her table expressed mixed opinions about professional advising. Professor Russom's group would like to have more FYS and CAP courses in the first semester. They felt that they were largely unnecessary in the second semester. Discussion at Professor Jenkin's table mirrored much of what the FEC discussed recently about IRB research experiences. Professor Dill's and Professor Evdokimova's group talked about the spectrum of courses that comprise service learning, and Professor Dreier's group discussed Capstone experiences. Technology in learning was the topic for discussion at Professor Taubin's table while Professor Campbell's group talked about the admission process.

The FEC discussed procedures for reviewing denials of reappointment, tenure and promotions, the importance of strengthening diversity procedures, and the need for institutional memory. The FEC, Committee on Diversity in Hiring (CDH) and President will meet on December 11 to discuss CDH's role in the TPAC process. The FEC will revisit these issues at their next meeting.

Professor Peter Weber and Olakunle George were invited to talk about their work on the Working Group for Graduate Education. They spoke about the vision and direction of the Graduate School and the issues they have reviewed so far and various data they are gathering. There was some discussion about the decisions for graduate school funding made last year and Faculty's concerns about them.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau  
Secretary