

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Meeting**

**November 10, 2009  
3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Corporation Room, University Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: James Dreier, Past Chair; Susan Allen, Cynthia Garcia Coll, Lina Fruzzetti, Thomas Lewis, Philip Rosen, Gabriel Taubin

Guests: Susan Alcock, John Bodel, Anthony Bagues, Tricia Rose, Stephen Houston, Bess Marcus, Peter Monti, Vincent Mor, Bill Rakowski, Jack Wands

Professor Dreier, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Professors Tricia Rose and Anthony Bagues were invited to talk about a proposal for a new doctoral degree program in the department of Africana Studies approved by the Academic Priorities Committee (APC) and the Graduate Council. The vetting process was lengthy and multi-faceted, the first draft of the proposal written about three years ago. Both a graduate program committee and department curriculum committee worked on developing this degree program. A significant amount of time was spent discussing how distinctive the program would be within Africana Studies. They hope to eventually start a campus-wide discussion about interdisciplinary methodology and the history and transformation of disciplinary boundaries in the humanities and social sciences. Why come up with this proposal now? We are behind all of our peer institutions in this field so timing is important. This is a chance for us to stake out our claim for a unique program. There are no pre-existing demands for resources. The program is being started on a small scale in keeping with their five-year plan so there is no need for additional faculty hires at this time. The number of staff currently employed by Africana Studies can handle the new graduate program. They will be presenting the proposal at the December 1 faculty meeting.

Minutes of the 10/27/09 meeting were approved.

Professors Susan Alcock, John Bodel, and Steve Houston visited with the FEC to talk about a proposal to rename the Program in Ancient Studies to the Program in Early Cultures. The APC and Graduate Council have approved of this change. The new name will better reflect the global outreach of the Program. The proposal will be presented at the December 1 faculty meeting.

Professors Dreier and Tan met with the Department Chairs Agenda Committee to discuss ideas on how to get more faculty participation in faculty governance, which the Committee thought was worth pursuing. It is faculty's perception that a lot of the

“power” committees that have administrators on them can overrule faculty’s decisions, so faculty do not feel they can make a difference. There needs to be more faculty “discussion” at regular faculty meetings rather than reports where faculty just sit and listen. For example, before the ad hoc Committee on Tenure and Faculty Development Policies was created, it could have come to a faculty meeting for discussion about its charge and composition. The FEC will talk more about this at the November 24 FEC meeting.

Dr. Jack Wands, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees, was invited to discuss the Committee’s annual report distributed with the agenda. He has thoroughly enjoyed his three years of service on this Committee. This year, they deliberated primarily in September reviewing nominees’ credentials and eligibility for an honorary degree, gathering information on candidates via the internet and through consultation with department heads and colleagues. They came up with eight very distinguished candidates they felt to be deserving of an honorary degree from Brown and presented their recommendations to the Board of Fellows on Corporation weekend. The recipients’ identities will not be revealed until just before Commencement. Professor Wands will present the report to the Faculty at the December 1 faculty meeting.

Professors Bess Marcus, Bill Rakowski, Vince Mor and Peter Monti were invited to discuss a proposal for a Master’s program in Behavioral and Social Science Intervention, vetted through and approved by the Graduate Council and APC. This is a one-year program and is the first graduate degree offering in this area. There is an increasing demand for disease and health promotion. There will be training for faculty who will be working on intervention in the behavioral sciences track. What are these people trained to do in intervention and how can they be trained in just one year? Discussion ensued with regard to the various levels of intervention and the structure of the program in relation to models for other programs. The intention of the program is to expose students to all levels of intervention in group and one-on-one situations. The program will give students a generic understanding of behavioral and social science intervention. The FEC questioned if they had gotten input from current graduate students. Feedback was formally solicited via a poll of graduate students and informally through the Curriculum Committee and from the graduate students they currently teach. No additional resources are needed to support the program as faculty has already been recruited. The proposal will be presented to the Faculty at the December 1 faculty meeting.

Professor Dreier continued with his report. He and Professor Tan met with the Provost and once again discussed tenure with him. How will the tenure rate issue affect the Plan for Academic Enrichment? If we continue to strive to be a world-class research institution, we must get the tenure rate down. Prof. Coll asked if there is data on the tenure rate by discipline, and is it high in all areas? The Provost has this information, and the tenure rate is high from discipline to discipline. The FEC meets with the Provost’s ad hoc Committee on Tenure and Faculty Development Policies on December 2. The FEC thought it best to come to the meeting with a list of topics they wish to discuss with the Committee.

The meeting was then called to executive session from 4:35-4:55 p.m.

Deans Bergeron and McSharry will be coming to the December 8 FEC meeting to talk about the new on-line teaching evaluations. Dean Bergeron had already been working on a new plan for teaching evaluations before it was even mentioned in the NEASC report. It was suggested she be invited to a faculty meeting to discuss teaching evaluations with the Faculty. It was also suggested that the FEC meet with a large group of department chairs about this as well.

The FEC would like to talk about ways they can engage more faculty participation in faculty governance. It was suggested it be an agenda item for the November 24 FEC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau  
Secretary