

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

**November 16, 2010
3:00-5:00 p.m.
Corporation Room, University Hall**

Minutes

Present: Susan Allen, Cynthia Garcia Coll (Chair), Reid Cooper, Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Harold Roth, Peter Shank (Vice Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. The November 9 minutes were approved with one minor grammatical amendment.

The meeting was called to a brief executive session after which Prof. Garcia Coll reported that she and Prof. Cooper met with Dean Bergeron to talk about teaching evaluations. They informed her of issues the faculty recently brought to the FEC's attention regarding the on-line teaching evaluation form noting that Faculty Rules would need to be changed if the on-line evaluations are to be mandatory. The Dean replied that using the on-line form will not be compulsory so will not violate the Faculty Rules. The CCC had asked Dean Bergeron to look into this before NEASC recommended it in its report. There will be a live demo for the form at which time the faculty can give input. The FEC decided they do not need to do anything more about the teaching evaluation form at this time.

Prof. Shank reported on the MFEC meeting yesterday. Most of the meeting was devoted to discussion about a new medical building. The MFEC is initiating a review of medical faculty ranks discussing whether or not to recommend dropping the voluntary designation. They did speak briefly about obstacles facing them that were recently discussed with the FEC.

The remainder of the FEC's meeting was devoted to discussion of the Motions for timing aspects of the tenure decision and letters from external reviewers that the FEC will be presenting to the Faculty at the December 7 faculty meeting. It is important that the FEC be very clear in the summary for the Motions that faculty are voting only on conceptual changes and that modifications to the language of the Faculty Rules, based on the approved principles, will be presented to Faculty in second semester. Faculty should know that the FEC has endorsed most of the ad hoc Committee to Review Tenure's recommendations proposing only one modification to the role of the Dean in preparing the final list of external letters. There was some discussion about whether or not the candidate should be informed of their department's vote count. Dean Doherty stated that she does inform the candidate of a vote count when it is close. Prof. Allen voiced concern about this where a smaller department of only 7-10 members is concerned because the candidate could figure out who voted against them. A "sense" of the vote would be more appropriate than an exact count. It was noted that the Faculty Rules do not say who informs the candidates of the decisions. Prof. Hu-Dehart feels that we need

the Ombudsperson back. Otherwise, who does one turn to when they have been denied promotion or tenure by TPAC? The timing aspect of the tenure decision relative to the probationary period was briefly discussed and some changes made to the Motion as a result. The FEC decided that voting on the principles is the way to go and that including references to the paragraphs in the FR&R related to the principles would help. Prof. Cooper will revise the Motions to include paragraphs relative to the principles, make the changes to the text that the FEC agreed upon, and will distribute to committee members for comment by email.

The FEC agreed to meet again on November 30th to decide how they will present the motions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary