

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

**December 14, 2011
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Kapstein Room, Faculty Club**

Minutes

Present: Peter Shank (Chair), Reid Cooper (Past Chair), Mary Louise Gill (Vice-Chair); Amy Greenwald, Peter Monti, Seth Rockman, Philip Rosen, Harold Roth, Petia Vlahovska, Cheryl Moreau, Len Moorehead

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. followed by introduction of new members Mary Louise Gill, Professor of Philosophy and Classics and FEC Vice-Chair, and Petia Vlahovska, Assistant Professor of Engineering.

Minutes of the November 8 FEC meeting were approved with one amendment and minutes of the November 22nd meeting were approved as submitted.

Prof. Shank reported that most Faculty who attended yesterday's Faculty Forum on the Academic Calendar were not in favor of starting classes in the Fall of 2013 before Labor Day and noted that no one objected to having exams on a Sunday. Prof. Shank suggests that the FEC formulate a motion proposing that classes begin the Tuesday after Labor Day rather than the Wednesday whenever there is a conflict with Rosh Hashanah and leave it up to the Dean of the College to decide what to do about the advising issue. He asked that the FEC think about some language that would incorporate these changes into the academic calendar.

Professors Shank and Cooper discussed open-access journals with President Simmons recently, the President concerned about budget restraints if they were to adopt such a system at Brown. The impact of open access has been huge—7,300 journals are currently available nationally on line. Prof. Cooper reported that approximately 70% of the expenditures for open-access journals have been in physical and biological sciences, with very little participation from computer science and engineering, while humanities is about 8% and social sciences 7%. The authors of open-access journals must pay charges for this service. The FEC officers plan to discuss open-access journals at their next meeting with the Provost.

Prof. Cooper attended the President's Executive Committee meeting on Prof. Shank's behalf. The Dean of the College spoke about on-line learning, promoting the new Canvas Program that will eventually replace MyCourses. The FEC would like to invite someone from the Dean's office to speak with the FEC about the proposed timeline for implementation of the Canvas Program. Prof. Shank voiced concern that nothing is portable in the Canvas Program and cannot be downloaded from one computer to another. Prof. Greenwald stated that whoever is hiring the company for Canvas at Brown needs to be aware of the issues and not just go to the lowest bidder. Beppie Huidekoper talked about upcoming priority projects for the University such as renovations to Hunter Lab, Barus and Holley, network infrastructure, and start-up support for science faculty. High level searches and short-term vs. long-term debt were discussed.

The Provost's meeting with the entire FEC was very useful, so the FEC would like to meet with him again perhaps every other month. The FEC officers will bring this up with the Provost

tomorrow and will speak to him about the calendar proposal as well. The Provost was sympathetic with the FEC officers about issues regarding the Faculty Travel Fund (FTF) and encouraged the FEC to look into it. The FTF has always allowed funding for only one trip per academic year for voting members of the Brown campus-based faculty. The maximum amount allowed is currently \$850. If a faculty member takes two trips that total \$850 combined, they are not allowed to apply for both trips, only one. The FEC will ask the Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity (CFED) to look into this. Provost Schlissel was also sympathetic towards compensation for faculty service and would like to look at committees to see which ones should receive support. The FEC will discuss this early in second semester. The Provost was receptive to finding ways of providing exiting full-time faculty with better facilities and responsibilities at Brown that would make them feel useful after retirement.

Prof. Shank gave a brief report on the MFEC meeting he attended yesterday. Accreditation in the Medical School is in self-study right now and will become full blown next year. The MFEC discussed administrative issues in the hospitals and the purchase of the Landmark Medical Center. A question was raised as to the status of the School of Public Health. Faculty approved the creation of the departments leading up to it and the clinical Faculty are teaching courses in the new departments. A question for the FEC: Is the School of Public Health on or off? Prof. Shank meets with Terrie Wetle about this next week. Peter may ask the Provost if he knows anything about this.

Prof. Roth reported that the Ombuds Search Committee has completed its first round of interviews for the Ombudsperson position and should have something concrete by December 19. Out of 65 applicants, 41 were female; others were men, one-half lawyers. Applicants came from as far away as Hawaii, and many of the applicants have multiple degrees. The Committee is currently down to a shortlist of five who are being interviewed. Some of the Search Committee members feel it is important that finalists have interviews with the President, Provost, Dean of the Faculty and the FEC to buy in from the various constituencies, while Prof. Roth feels that this additional level of interviews would delay the hiring process. Prof. Shank reminded the FEC that the President does not want to be involved until the final person is recommended by the Search Committee noting that FEC is getting a good perspective from a diverse search committee. The consensus of the FEC was that Prof. Roth's committee move forward without additional interviews. Prof. Shank praised Hal and his committee for their excellent work in such a short period of time.

Discussion then returned to the academic calendar and a plan to draft some language to change the academic year calendar for presentation at the February faculty meeting, stating that when Rosh Hashanah falls on opening day of classes, classes will start on Tuesday. Having a fall break is off the table. Prof. Shank agreed to draft something to send to Prof. Roth. Prof. Roth will review, edit and send to Prof. Rockman. Once Prof. Rothman has given his input, it will go to the entire FEC.

Prof. Shank reported that all serious warnings including those for non-academic reasons are included on the transcripts. Prof. Greenwald raised a question. Should there be a notation on the transcript that one has been taken off serious warning? She had recently met with TEAM advisors who brought this up. Prof. Shank suggested discussing this with the Registrar at the January FEC meeting.

Under other business, Prof. Rockman voiced concern about campus security issues that arose after recent incidences on campus. He is not convinced that Brown's security is as well educated and trained as they should be. Faculty should get involved. The FEC executive officers will

bring this issue up with the President and Provost. If Faculty could have some reassurance that protocols were reviewed in light of recent campus incidents, it would be somewhat comforting.

Prof. Cooper reported there has been a four-part series in the Brown Daily Herald about the future of Brown and will send it to the FEC.

Prof. Shank reminded the FEC they will be looking at the tenure process in the Faculty Rules next semester as they relate to promotion from associate to full professor. He would like the FEC to accomplish something on this in the spring so that a process can be incorporated into the Faculty Rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary