

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Meeting

**February 14, 2006**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Corporation Room, University Hall**

**Minutes**

Present: Bob Pelcovits, Chair; Ann Dill, Vice Chair; Michel-André Bossy, Past Chair; Donald Forsyth, Marida Hollos, William Rakowski, Albert Dahlberg, Svetlana Evdokimova, and Esther Whitfield.

Guests: David Greene

The meeting began at 3:05 p.m. Minutes from January 31, 2006 were approved.

Professor Fishman cancelled his visit with the FEC today due to a sudden death in the family. His discussion regarding a motion from the Creative Arts Council will be rescheduled for a later date.

Professor Pelcovits gave a chair's report. The FEC officers spoke with President Simmons and Provost Zimmer about the Ombudsperson position and the possibility of locating the office in the Library. The Provost expressed his views about the proposed TPAC motion. He recently met with Professor Spoehr, Nominations Committee Chair, regarding his role in consulting with the Nominations Committee about slates of nominees for the APC and URC ballots. The President and FEC officers discussed how important it is for the Faculty Advisory Committee for the Campaign to be a committee of substance, having real input into fund-raising for the Campaign and the President concurred.

Professor Bossy voiced his concern with the President and Provost regarding the lack of faculty's involvement with Brown's foreign agreements with other universities. What is Brown's policy? Should study programs abroad be under full jurisdiction of the Office of International Programs or should faculty be involved? The President and Provost agreed that faculty should play a more visible role in foreign agreements with other universities but thought it would be best to wait until the new Dean of the College is in place before discussing it further.

Professor Pelcovits met with Dean Vohra who would like to dissolve the Faculty Development Advisory Board (FDAB). This would mean amending the Faculty Affairs Committee's (FAC) charge in the Faculty Rules to include some of FDAB's duties such as overseeing the Faculty Travel Fund. The FAC has no problem with assuming those responsibilities, but there is a question of whether or not it is advisable to totally eliminate FDAB. The next Dean of the Faculty may want such an advisory board in which case it would have to be reinstated and FAC's charge amended again. Professor Pelcovits will discuss the issue with Peter Richardson, Parliamentarian.

The FEC discussed the draft notice of the 3/16 faculty forum on the proposed Integrative Science and Engineering Program, there being no immediate suggestions for improvement. If suggestions

for changes come to mind after the meeting, they will let Professor Pelcovits know. The forum will be wide open with no specific agenda. It was suggested the proposed program be fully investigated prior to the forum.

Vice President David Greene led a discussion about engaging faculty in student life at Brown. There is a lack of close interaction of students and world-class faculty. Students should be able to think of a faculty member as a regular person, to feel more comfortable when needing advice or help with academics during office hours. Vice President Greene would like to institute a program that would ensure quality of life in residence halls equivalent to the quality of education in the classroom. Some structure should be involved because today there are more demands on faculty that take them away from being involved in residence living.

Lengthy discussion ensued on how to go about achieving this goal. Professor Pelcovits asked if there are any public spaces currently available. Vice President Greene has been trying to find support from every area on campus and found enough space to at least start testing the program. The FEC suggested uniting faculty and students with common interests over dinner or perhaps with small projects led by one or two faculty members such as a RISD museum tour. Students could become involved with faculty interests outside their academic pursuits such as gardening or fossil hunting. DUGS should be encouraged to get involved with organizing this. Professor Dill suggested utilizing study and grading breaks when faculty can devote more time to students without going too much outside of their regular work schedule. Most faculty today live 15-20 miles away from campus which makes it more difficult to set up a family-type setting for students where they can dine with faculty's families. It also limits the amount of time faculty can spend on campus.

The Dean of the College has suggested a model to disburse first-year advisors by living area. Freshmen advisor luncheons in the Faculty Club work well, so perhaps the same concept would work in residential areas. Professor Dahlberg noted that GISP student meetings with faculty at their homes worked well in the past. Perhaps faculty could be invited to give a talk to students in residence halls. Incentives such as Brown bucks that could be used to purchase most anything on campus or extra money for research funds could be offered, although the collegial benefit would be the real reward. Professor Pelcovits asked if Vice President Greene could share some of the information from other colleges about their systems to stimulate more ideas. Professor Hollos suggested they think about how to get the off-campus students involved. There is little junior and senior level representation on campus which puts a heavy load on the sophomores that run residence halls. Vice President Greene thanked the FEC for their input and will propose a pilot program to them later that will be run by his office with the FEC as the sponsor.

The meeting was called to Executive Session at 3:35 p.m. to discuss the Rosenberger Medal of Honor nominations.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. so that members could attend the Faculty Forum on Sabbatical and Leave Policies at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau  
Secretary