

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)  
Meeting

**March 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, Albert Dahlberg, Svetlana Evdokimova, Marida Hollos, James Padbury, William Rakowski, and Esther Whitfield.

Guests: Catherine Dubé, Leo Depuydt, Richard Fishman, Michael Goldberger, Karen Krahulik, Stephen Lichtenbaum

The meeting began at 3:05 p.m. Minutes of the 2/14 and 2/28 FEC meeting were approved as submitted.

Professor Pelcovits gave a Chair's report. The FEC officers will meet with President Simmons on Friday. The Committee raised some concerns about the search for the new Provost which they would like the FEC officers to share with the President. At Professor Pelcovits' request, the FEC reviewed two similar versions of the TPAC motion to determine which one was clearer and chose the one they felt should move forward.

Professor Rakowski reported that at yesterday's MFEC meeting, the committee discussed changes to its charge and composition and the nominations process for election of its members. Professor Padbury elaborated on some of the proposed changes to MFEC's membership, one major change being to add a faculty member from the clinician educator track. He stressed the importance of good communication between the MFEC and hospitals. Professor Rakowski noted that the MFEC may be interested in the issues regarding benefits for research faculty.

Professor Dill reported that the recent grading forum on the proposed pluses and minuses system was poorly attended by students and faculty. The College Curriculum Council will be voting on the proposal today. When the system was first proposed a few years ago, it was decided there should be a series of meetings to discuss the meaning of grades at Brown. These meetings never took place. Professor Dill would like to see a little more resolution this time around; the issue is not going to die.

Professor Lichtenbaum, chair of the Tenure, Promotions and Appointments Committee (TPAC), presented a revised motion to clarify its charge and operation in the Faculty Rules. All references to the Handbook for Academic Administration were eliminated. Discussion ensued regarding the language regarding the review of recommendations for tenure as proposed in B.1.c., and substantial changes were made. Professor Pelcovits will run the revised version by the Parliamentarian this evening before bringing it before the President at tomorrow's faculty agenda meeting. The rationale will also need to be revised. The FEC's intention is to bring the motion to the Faculty on 4/4 for a vote and asked Professor Lichtenbaum to plan on attending the 4/4 faculty meeting unless notified otherwise.

Professor Richard Fishman proposed a motion to delete all language in the Faculty Rules pertaining to the University Creative Arts Council (CAC), as the CAC is no longer a faculty committee. Several years ago, the Task Force on Faculty Governance recommended the CAC consider reconfiguring itself from a committee of the faculty into an entity representing expanded activities, goals and objectives of the Council. The CAC took the necessary steps to alter its governance structure including expanding its membership and now reports to the Provost. The CAC has been very successful since its reorganization with a new Center for the Arts in the works. Their Committee charge will remain the same and can be found on the Web. Membership will change somewhat during regular cycles and the two faculty members from the University at-large will remain. The CAC will need to decide how they will go about appointing those two faculty members since the Nominations Committee will not have that responsibility. Professor Fishman will present the motion at the 4/4 faculty meeting.

Dr. Catherine Dubé and Professor Leo Depuydt, co-chairs of the Committee on the Academic Code and Dean Karen Krahulik, Case Administrator, joined the FEC for discussion about the Committee's annual report distributed with the agenda. The Committee's purpose is to hear and adjudicate cases of alleged violation of the academic code as they come forward. The Committee occasionally meets with the College Curriculum Council to discuss educational issues such as additional guidance about academic honesty for students and prevention strategies for faculty. The Committee on Academic Code will be conducting a senior survey to gather data about cheating at Brown. The FEC suggested a faculty survey also be conducted. Dr. Dubé noted that it is a burden for faculty to build a case for presentation to the Academic Code Committee, so they would like to be more active in prevention. In order to do so, they would like the FEC to think about creating another committee; one would handle adjudication, the other educational issues. It will need to be determined whether or not a new committee would be under jurisdiction of the Dean of the College or the faculty. Dean Krahulik explained her role as Case Administrator and noted she is in the process of studying cases of academic dishonesty at other Ivy League institutions. She would also like to address how to think of academic code in a pedagogical way.

Discussion ensued with regard to the appeal process and faculty's frustration about sanctions being too lenient. It seems that the punishment does not always fit the crime. Dean Krahulik reminded the FEC that the Committee on Academic Code is chaired by a faculty member, so faculty have the power to influence outcome. She encourages them to get involved by becoming committee members. In closing, Dr. Dubé reiterated the need for the adjudication and educational functions to be separated and another committee be created to handle one of these tasks. The FEC agreed to discuss this in the near future.

Mr. Michael Goldberger, Athletic Director, was invited to discuss integration of athletics with academia. 40% of Brown's student body are varsity athletes. He described the recruitment regulations and guidelines for the Ivies and spoke about academic performance by athletes, with Brown performing well. Mr. Goldberger noted that in the future, there will be financial benefits for universities whose athletes perform well in academics.

It is important to coaches to be more involved in campus life. Some have worked at Brown for many years and never been inside a library. Mr. Goldberger has begun the transition for them by holding staff meetings in some of the buildings across campus. He is trying to formalize academic liaisons to figure out and discuss how to do things better. Professor Pelcovits asked if he is getting a lot of faculty liaison volunteers. Mr. Goldberger's response was positive crediting the Student Athletic Advisory Committee as instrumental in getting faculty to volunteer. The

students love to have faculty and administrators watch their games and often thank them when a game has ended.

Lengthy discussion ensued with regard to issues such as lectures and forums being scheduled during practice time, the need to strengthen peer advising, and interaction between athletes and TA's. Coaches try to accommodate most of the athletes so as not to interfere with class time. Some Ivies designate a specific time when classes cannot be scheduled such as between 3 and 7 p.m. Team practices are scheduled at that time enabling entire teams to participate but, unfortunately, Brown does not have the classroom facilities to be able to do this. Mr. Goldberger will continue to work on these issues and would appreciate any further advice the FEC may have to offer. He will keep the lines of communication open.

The FEC will review the Nominations ballot information included with the agenda for discussion at the 3/21 FEC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau  
Secretary