

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

April 14, 2009

3:00-5:00pm

Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

Present: James Dreier, Chair; Gerald Diebold, Vice Chair; Ruth Colwill, Past Chair; Lina Fruzzetti, William Rakowski, Geoffrey Russom, Nicolas Wey-Gomez, Cynthia Garcia-Coll

Guests: Rebecca Burwell, Robert Pelcovits, Sheila Bonde, Sorin Istrail

Professor Dreier called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Minutes of the 3/17/09 meeting were approved with slight alterations.

Professor Dreier gave the Chair's report. The current economic crisis dominated the President's meeting. The Provost's report and email to the Brown community re-iterated Professor Dreier's comments on staff reduction and the budget cut backs. The Graduate School is to remain at its current size.

Rebecca Burwell presented the Academic Priorities Committee (APC) report. The FEC asked if there were any common themes across campus. The APC response is to do better with fewer resources. The FEC asked how will the University look after the economic crisis? The Graduate school is to remain at current levels and faculty recruitment is to continue albeit at a slower pace. Junior faculty will feel effects of slow growth. A wide variety of voices are for a more aggressive pursuit of supplementary funding. Professor Burwell will present the APC's report at the May 5 faculty meeting.

The FEC discussed the revised Dismissal Procedure and closely read the Provost's and General Counsel's wording. It was suggested that Dismissal was closely akin to awarding tenure in its complexity. Some wording was stricken such as "improper" in bullet 5, Paragraph 2. Also in the section "Basis for Action by the Dean:" first sentence ".....the Dean will provide notice IN WRITING to the member" was added to conform with language further in the document. General discussion continued and it was decided to put the document on the May faculty meeting agenda.

The FEC reviewed the Provost's proposed revisions to the academic calendar for 2010-2011 and 2013-2014 because of the way the Rosh Hashanah holiday falls in 2010 and 2013. The FEC decided to put the changes on the May Faculty Meeting agenda.

Professor Robert Pelcovits presented the Faculty Committee for the Campaign (FCC) report. The FCC met to implement its charge of communicating with faculty colleagues regarding the campaign; has searched for speakers for fundraising events, promoted faculty awareness of the campaign and is assisting the Campaign by developing departmental connections to alumni and friends. Additional support to the campaign was suggested by donations from the faculty. There remains 18 months for the campaign. The report is to be placed on the agenda for the May Faculty Meeting.

Sorin Istrail and Sheila Bonde presented a proposal for a graduate degree program in the Center for Computational Molecular Biology. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the number of semesters of support required for graduate students and technical assistants. Each participating department is satisfied with the Phd program and a Phd committee will vet applicants. Our peer institutions are somewhat advanced in this field and sponsors are optimistic the program will prove inviting and progressive. The FEC recommended the program be put before the faculty at the May faculty meeting.

Geoffrey Russom reported from the recent MFEC meeting. The new Warren Alpert School of Medicine is to be located at 222 Richmond Street in existing facilities. Remodeling is expected to be finished a year early and the school will open in 2011. Funding is mostly from the Alpert gift and will contain centers of excellence. Recent surveys of Brown medical students report considerably higher incidence of abuse than other medical schools. HIPPA is reported as not as conservative at Brown than elsewhere. The medical school is developing a stricter protocol in regard to pharmaceutical companies and faculty/staff/students.

Professor Dreier reported from his meeting with the Provost that the University will require \$30 million in additional funding next year. Savings are expected through staff attrition, cuts, and supplementary funding from outside sources. The FEC met with student groups whose main interest beyond changing the Columbus holiday name to Fall Holiday Weekend was in advisor evaluation. General discussion ensued.

The FEC discussed vacancies to be filled on the BUCC, Nominations Committee and FCC, terms to be effective July 1, 2009. Replacements are suggested to be sought from the Economics department as well as the MFEC and Political Science departments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Leonard Moorehead
Secretary Pro-Tem