

**Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Meeting**

**May 12, 2009
3:00-5:00pm**

Corporation Room, University Hall

Minutes

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

Guests: Susan Alcock, Clyde Briant, Russell Carey, Harriette Hemmasi, Margaret Klawunn, Sherief Reda, Deborah Rivas-Drake

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. Minutes of the 4/28/09 meeting were approved.

Vice President Clyde Briant and Professor Susan Alcock joined the FEC for discussion about the Research Advisory Board's (RAB) annual report distributed with the agenda. Last year, the RAB established a new operating procedure by organizing working groups comprised of several RAB members and other faculty and staff members to discuss issues related to (1) Information Technology Support and Infrastructure, (2) Faculty Incentive Structures for Research Opportunities, (3) Research Funding Streams and the University Mission, and (4) the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The RAB provided their guidance and input to the working groups throughout the year. Each group submitted an individual report to the RAB at their last meeting of this academic year that will be distributed to various constituencies within the Office of the VP for Research (OVPR) and to other relevant groups in the University. The Board found this new operating procedure to be very efficient and helpful to the OVPR. The RAB as a whole tackled the Conflict of Interest Policy and a final draft of the Policy was approved by the Corporation on 4/24/09. Implementation of the new Policy is underway and the new forms will be written over the summer.

The FEC voiced concern that although some issues raised by them were addressed in the report, there was no mention of the Faculty's issue with the IRB about lack of an adequate prescreening process for approval of research projects. This has been of particular concern to Faculty for the past several years and brought to the RAB's attention on several occasions since its inception. Is there any way for this to be addressed? This will be discussed with Regina White. Distribution of seed grants and Salomon awards were also omitted from their report. The RAB's report will be presented at the October 6 faculty meeting.

Professor Sherief Reda was invited to discuss the Computing Advisory Board's (CAB) annual report included with the agenda. The CAB met with CIS on Thursdays to discuss

projects they were working on and then brainstormed on the issues that needed to be addressed. The CAB overviewed projects in three major areas—administrative, educational and research. More tools are available through outsourcing, a big cost-saving measure. Outsourcing of email will most likely happen for students although they will still maintain a Brown.edu address. Outsourcing may gradually happen for faculty. Recurring costs dependent upon Brown such as spam-filtering and software/hardware licensing will be greatly reduced or eliminated by outsourcing. The FEC noted that a list of buildings and the classrooms that do not have wireless access would be helpful. The FEC is very interested in getting input on outsourcing from Faculty other than those serving on the CAB. Perhaps faculty with research projects should take the lead on this while CIS works on the infrastructure. Some issues overlap with those of the RAB and other groups. Maybe this would be something the new Science Research Council could take on. It was suggested there be a joint subcommittee on Computing and Research—2 people each from the CAB and RAB could be designated to attend each other's meetings. This idea has worked very well for the CCC who now has a subcommittee consisting of members of the Graduate Council and CCC. Facilities people recently came to a CAB meeting to discuss reports that antennas on some of Brown's buildings are either interrupting or altering lab experiments impairing some people's research. This could eventually lead to some health problems. There should be an alert about this before antennas go up over the entire campus. The CAB will report to the Faculty at the October 6 faculty meeting.

Harriette Hemmasi, University Librarian, discussed the Library Advisory Board's (LAB) annual report with the FEC also distributed with today's agenda. The main topic for discussion was digital repository, which is an extension to the Library's archiving function. The LAB is currently considering what materials should go into the digital repository. The Library currently stores many videos, movie clips, etc. that are stored behind firewalls for class use. The LAB has considered proposed cutbacks to protect the FY10 budget including the elimination of some library staff positions and purchasing fewer volumes of journals. To plan for the Fall, Faculty will be asked to rank the journals they require in terms of need so they can determine where to cut back. Another plan being considered is to cut back on subscription fees by making some of the materials available on line. Support for digital initiatives was discussed after which Ms. Hemmasi was invited to present the LAB's report at the October 6 faculty meeting.

Vice President Margaret Klawunn and Professor Deborah Rivas joined the FEC for a discussion about the Campus Life Advisory Board's (CLAB) annual report. Specific projects for building a shared sense of community, enhancing the quality of Brown's facilities and supporting the health and safety of students included the renovation of Faunce House, a review of the non-academic judicial system (i.e. the University Disciplinary Council), increasing the number of faculty advising fellows, and expanding the hours at Health Services. The protest that interrupted a recent Corporation meeting was discussed. The CLAB has since reviewed Brown's protest policy to determine if it says what it should say. A subcommittee of the CLAB considered Cornell and Princeton's extra-curricular activities "block of time" policies to determine how we might help Brown students to balance their classes with extra-curricular activities. Would it be

valuable to have a block of time set aside for our students? There is a lot of pressure on the students to manage these situations from both the teachers and coaches. This discussion is on-going. General discussion ensued with regard to quality of life, on-line communication venues such as the “Jolt”, and diversity in the residence halls. The CLAB would very much like to return in the Fall to talk about the Faculty Advising Fellows Program with the FEC. The CLAB will report at the October 6 faculty meeting.

Professor Dreier gave a chair’s report. Mayor David Cicilline spoke to Brown’s student groups about levying a \$300 tax on students in private institutions in Providence to bring in more revenue. This may be unconstitutional. Can we make a statement? Prof. Dreier checked with Marisa Quinn. Faculty members are urged to consult their state representative. In the meantime, Ms. Quinn will let Professor Dreier know what can be done without getting politically involved. The merger between Psychology and Cognitive and Linguistic Sciences will be discussed by the APC and will come to the FEC as well next fall. There are junior faculty issues for the Science Council to discuss in addition to the science research projects mentioned earlier in today’s discussion with the CAB. Opening convocation is scheduled for 4:00 PM rather than noon on Sept. 9. We need to determine if the special faculty meeting should be held after Convocation or on Sept. 15. Professor Wey-Gomez will be leaving the FEC due to his promotion to associate professor effective 7/1/09. The FEC congratulated him and suggested names of junior faculty for his one-year replacement that would be forwarded to the Nominations Committee. Perhaps it should be an assistant professor who has recently been reappointed. Slots that will be vacated as of 7/1/09 on the Brown University Community Council and Faculty Committee for the Campaign are filled. Professor Dreier has found two people willing to be nominated for two of the three vacant slots on the Nominations Committee. Suggestions for the third slot were discussed.

The FEC then briefly reviewed a draft Clinical Tenure Policy for clinical departments in the Division of Biology and Medicine and decided that Dean Wing should be invited to discuss it with them in the Fall. The FEC would like to see a rationale for this proposal.

Russell Carey was invited to discuss a draft proposal for a University closing/delay policy and principles. He discussed this with various groups on campus to determine how to implement a policy to include situations for both staff and students. The goal is to post it to the Web and remind people of this in the winter. Faculty or a third party would be required to directly notify students if they are not able to come in to teach a class in inclement weather.

The FEC decided to review TPAC deadlines in the fall. It was suggested that the FEC look at the section of the Handbook for Academic Administration that deals with tenure and to invite TPAC to an FEC meeting to talk about their new process for reviewing tenure.

The FEC revisited a draft motion for changes to the RAB’s charge and agreed in principle that Faculty should be able to review new policies or changes to existing policies that would require their signature before implementation. After some edits, the

FEC voted in favor of bringing it to the Faculty as a motion in the Fall. Dean Vohra will be thinking about coming up with a form for Faculty to sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Moreau
Secretary