

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Faculty Meeting—December 2, 2008

Provost Kertzer called the meeting to order at about 4:05 PM.

The customary motion to stand adjourned no later than 6:00 PM was made, seconded, and approved. The minutes of the meeting of November 4, 2008 were approved. They will be amended to note that Vice President Huidekoper stated that standing obligations in the budget amount to about \$30 million (page 3, first full paragraph, line 3).

Provost Kertzer noted that President Simmons was under the weather and that Professor Hazeltine would serve as Interim Secretary for the meeting.

Professor Wayne Bowen presented a Memorial Minute for Sungman Cha, Professor Emeritus of Molecular Pharmacology. The minute is attached and will be entered into the permanent records of the Faculty and copies sent to members of the immediate family.

Prof. Dreier, Chair of the FEC, presented a resolution of the FEC related to the rights of a faculty member being stripped of tenure. The resolution has been examined by several people, including Russell Carey. The resolution is:

“Only the Corporation awards tenure at Brown; only the Corporation has the authority to take it away. No member of the administration can terminate the employment of a tenured member of the faculty; no member of the administration has the authority to set conditions on the continued employment of a tenured member of the Brown faculty. If the President believes that a tenured faculty member has acted in such a way as to warrant the rescission of tenure, he or she should advise the faculty member that he or she will recommend as much to the Corporation and explain the procedure and describe what rights the faculty member has under the Faculty Rules and Regulations, including the right to a hearing before a faculty committee, which committee will report its findings to the Corporation.”

Mr. Patterson asked what prompted this resolution—the omission had been noted by the FEC. Prof. Hermance asked if a faculty member could be represented by counsel at a pertinent hearing—counsel may be present at the hearing. The resolution is consistent with actions of the AAUP.

Prof. Dreier then asked Dean Lassonde to speak. Dean Lassonde said he was responding to a query about the large number of academic suspensions reported to the Faculty at a previous meeting. In fact the reported number was in error. The correct number is 24, in line with recent history. Prof. Colwill asked about other reasons that students are separated from the University—these reasons include non-payment of charges, disciplinary, academic code. In response to a question, the Registrar agreed to make the pertinent numbers available. Prof Emigh asked about suspensions for non-payment. These take effect at the end of the semester, so students starting the first semester with unpaid bills continue until January. The Provost added that the rule has been modified this year so students with balances due less than \$7500 may continue into the second semester. The number of students with financial obligations to the University is not unusual this year.

Finally, Prof. Dreier asked Vice President Davis, Co-Chair of the Brown Charity Drive, to speak. The objective this year is to increase the total amount of money raised and the number of donors. She reviewed the list of agencies receiving money from the drive, through the United Way and the Fund for Community Progress. The name of the drive this year is “Brown Goes Green”. Collection jars have been set up in various places on campus and coordinators designated for certain units. Vice President Wright hopes that faculty members will talk up the campaign.

Dean Wing next presented a motion that the Department of Clinical Neurosciences be divided into the Department of Neurology and the Department of Neurosurgery. The motion had been distributed with the meeting agenda. Dean Wing pointed out that it was unusual, compared to other universities in the United States, to link the two departments as they now are. An external review committee had questioned the present organization. Separating the departments will create an opportunity to recruit external chairs. The motion was:

“The Faculty acknowledges receipt of the report from the Academic Priorities Committee supporting the proposal to divide the current Department of Clinical Neurosciences into the Department of Neurology and Department of Neurosurgery. The Faculty recommends to the President and Board of Fellows that the Department of Clinical Neurosciences be divided into the Department of Neurology and the Department of Neurosurgery.”

Prof. Levitsky asked how the program could benefit from the split—chiefly in the opportunity to recruit outstanding scholars as chairs. At present the chair rotates, as is customary in clinical departments. Prof. Wegner asked if neurosurgery was special, as a Department of Surgery also exists. Dean Wing explained that groups with particular strengths are designated departments. Such departments are at an advantage in raising external funds.

The motion carried on a voice vote, with no dissensions.

The Provost made his report. He started by asking, in the absence of the President, if faculty members had questions. None were asked.

He then prefaced a discussion about conflict of interest by drawing the Faculty’s attention to an editorial in the *New York Times*, which cited “an appalling conflict of interest” at a peer institution. The Provost noted that all the universities he knows about are in the process of revising their conflict of interest policy. The Provost called on Vice President Briant. Vice President Briant said his objective here was to alert the Faculty to proposed changes and invite their participation in the change process. The review of the conflict of interest policy was initiated at the request of the Corporation. The integrity of the institution is at stake. This, as mentioned, is a national concern. Federal funding agencies—the NIH was specifically mentioned—are expected to announce pertinent guidelines soon. Vice President Briant reviewed the time line beginning with internal discussion this fall. In February 2009 the revised policy will be brought to the Faculty and then to the Corporation. He reviewed the present policy and proposed changes. The FEC will be brought into the review.

Much discussion ensued. Dean Wing pointed out that the conflict of interest policy affects clinical faculty and a need exists to coordinate with the hospitals. Prof. Dreier asked if the present policy is in the Faculty Handbook—it is but no one seemed sure if the policy listed is up-to-date. Dean Vohra asked the scope of the new policy—not yet determined. Dean Clifton asked for clarification about accepting funds from companies in which one has an interest. Vice President Briant said the matter is being debated; a whole spectrum of interests exists. A faculty

member may own stock in a large publicly traded corporation and purchase or do consulting with the corporation—no conflict would appear to exist. At the other end of the spectrum, a faculty member might be one of three owners of a privately held corporation, a conflict of interest could be perceived if the faculty member and the corporation entered into a commercial contract. It was pointed out that entering into such contracts is not prohibited but the matter must be managed. Prof. Colwill asked what “managed” meant. In nearly all cases, it simply means informing appropriate university officials about the transaction. In a very few cases (four or so at present), an oversight committee is established by the Provost. Dean Wing reiterated risk to the institutions if violations become known. Prof. Hermance said he had personal experience with the conflict of interest policy. He is disturbed by phrases “[Brown] should get ahead of the game” and asked why? He finds the questions asked on the form submitted by faculty members invasive. He hopes the FEC and the faculty will look carefully at proposed revisions. Prof. Dreier said the FEC would review the form. A question was asked about the relationship between federal guidelines and university policy—federal agencies expect universities to set a policy consistent with their guidelines. Prof. Diebold emphasized the need for faculty input into the process. Vice President Briant thanked Regina White, Associate Vice President for Research, for her work on the policy review.

Vice President Spies reported on the Plan for Academic Enrichment. He noted that the present economic conditions make this an opportune time for such a review. He explained the Plan is a process, not simply a set of goals. As opportunities develop, the Plan changes. He reviewed the Plan’s original objectives: increase the size of the faculty, attract students, and support the faculty. The size of the faculty has increased. Financial Aid has greatly increased. The Graduate School has been strengthened—we are now, by several measures, within the cluster of schools we like to compare ourselves to. Present priorities are to continue to strengthen undergraduate education, ensure a global university, and enhance excellence in the departments. The present state of the economy will mean that faculty growth will be slower but not stopped, development of vital infrastructure will be selective, and the rate of increase in compensation levels will be decreased but we will continue to seek opportunities and new initiatives. Prof. Colwill asked what metrics will be used in selecting the opportunities to be met. The Provost, by way of clarification, stated that the University would invest in all departments, not in only selected ones. He believes faculty members would agree about whether a particular opportunity is strong enough to warrant special consideration.

Prof. Simmons presented the report of the Nominations Committee. She began by reporting on new assignments to committees. These are:

Nominations recommended to the Faculty for Committee Appointments to be effective immediately:

University Resources Council (URC)

Tayhas Palmore (Engineering) replacing James Green (History) to 2/28/09

Nominations recommended to the Faculty for Committee Appointments to be effective January 1, 2009:

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)

William Rakowski (Community Health) replacing Susan Allen (Community Health) to 6/30/09

Advisory Committee on Honorary Degrees

Douglas Anderson (Anthropology) replacing Elissa Jelalian (Psychiatry & Human Behavior) to 12/31/11

Gregory Tucker (Physics) replacing Harvey Silverman (Engineering) to 12/31/11

The Provost asked for further nominations. None were presented. The nominations were voted on and passed. The Committee report had been distributed with the Meeting Agenda. No questions were asked. Prof. Simmons noted that emails have been sent to various officers of the University, including department chairs, inviting nominations for awards for service to the University.

Prof. Lusk presented the report of the Committee on Faculty Retirement. She urged retired faculty members to respond to the survey sent out before the Thanksgiving holiday. The report had been distributed with the Meeting Agenda. Prof. Hermance asked about a comparison of health benefits for retired faculty offered by other institutions. Prof. Lusk commented that no new information has been developed; Vice President Huidekoper said her office will look at the matter again.

No Old Business existed.

Vice President Michael Pickett, Vice President/CIO for Computing and Information Services, reminded the faculty of the report, Brown University IT Strategic Plan 2008-2013, which is on the Wiki. The URL is <https://wiki.brown.edu/confluence/display/itstrategicplan/Home>. Comments are welcomed.

The meeting was adjourned at about 5:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barrett Hazeltine
Interim Secretary of the Faculty

Professor Sungman Cha
Memorial Minute at Faculty Meeting
December 2, 2008

On August 7, 2008 our esteemed colleague Sungman Cha, M.D., Ph.D., passed away at his home in Providence at the age of 80. Professor Cha was born in 1928 in what is now North Korea, during the Japanese occupation. In 1944, he went to Severance Medical College in Seoul, now known as Yonsei University Medical College. In 1950, he received a Rotary Scholarship, the only recipient at Yonsei and one of ten throughout Korea. However, Sungman was never able to utilize this honor, as his studies were interrupted due to the outbreak of the Korean War shortly thereafter. He finished his medical studies at Yonsei in 1954, after the war ended.

The day after graduation from medical school, he received orders to report for military service and enlisted in the navy. This was an auspicious event, since it brought him to the U.S. where he was assigned to the Bethesda Naval Hospital, at Bethesda, Maryland for training. While there, he took courses in chemistry and biochemistry at the NIH and developed his interest in pharmacology.

In 1959, on the advice and encouragement of another Yonsei graduate, Dr. Lee Woo Choo, Dr. Cha applied and was accepted as a Ph.D. student in pharmacology in the Department of Pharmacology at Wisconsin. It was there that he forged several lasting friendships. Among these were two fellow graduate students, Ralph Miech, a former lab mate and Chung-Ja Mo, a graduate student from Korea who would eventually become his wife.

Sungman completed his Ph.D. at Wisconsin in 1963. The Cha's, along with Ralph Miech, were then recruited to Brown by another Wisconsin colleague, Dr. Robert Parks who had come to Brown in 1963 as Professor and Chair of the Section of Biochemical Pharmacology in the then emerging Program in Medicine in the Division of Biology and Medicine. Parks, Cha, and Miech formed the core faculty of the Section.

From an Assistant Professor in 1963, Dr. Cha moved up the ranks to Associate Professor in 1968, and to Professor of Medical Science in 1973. Dr. Cha played a major role in the development of the Medical Science Program into a full-fledged medical school. In fact, Dr. Cha held the proud distinction of hosting the entire first graduating class for dinner at his home in 1975. Professor Cha served as Chairman of the Section of Biochemical Pharmacology from 1976-83, and then again as acting Chairman in 1989-90. He became Professor Emeritus in 1993.

Dr. Cha did seminal work in the area of tight-binding enzyme inhibitors, particularly nucleoside analogs. His in depth studies of the biochemistry and kinetics of these inhibitors laid the groundwork and forms the basis of modern cancer chemotherapy. The work also impacted antiviral therapies such as those used to treat HIV/AIDS today. His work was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society.

Known as a passionate mentor to his own students, he also mentored numerous Korean medical students and graduate students of all disciplines, and served as a leader in the Korean community in Rhode Island. He was a strong supporter and advocate of junior scientists in the department and beyond. This dedication and leadership will be sorely missed.

Professor Sungman Cha is survived by his wife of 48 years, Dr. Chung-Ja Mo Cha, Associate Professor Emerita of Pediatrics (Research), his children Jang-Ho Cha, M.D., Ph.D., Mih-Ho Cha Neenan ('85), Jih-Ho Cha Donovan ('86), and seven grandchildren. In honor of Professor Cha, the family has established within the department the Sungman Cha Memorial Fund, to be used to advance the research endeavors of the Department and for which the Department is extremely grateful.

Wayne D. Bowen
Professor and Chair,
Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology & Biotechnology