

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting September 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. The minutes from the May 22, 2009 Faculty Meeting were approved. Professor Tan, speaking for the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC), welcomed the faculty and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve his colleagues, the University, and the Brown community. He thanked Professor Dreier for his tireless and proficient service as last year's FEC Chair and acknowledged that he expects to rely heavily on the Past Chair as they address the challenges ahead. Professor Tan then introduced other members of the FEC in attendance: Professor Susan Allen, Professor Cynthia Garcia Coll, Professor Lina Fruzzetti, Professor Phil Rosen, and Professor Gabriel Taubin. He announced that a nomination for a one-year replacement to the FEC would be brought forward by the Committee on Nominations and that a ballot was being developed for the FEC Vice Chair position.

Professor Tan remarked on the significant progress that has been made on Phase II of the ambitious Plan for Academic Enrichment, noting that the Capital Campaign goal of \$1.4B was reached 19 months ahead of schedule. He offered reassurance that Brown has in place a steady, skilled, and experienced team to deal with the challenges posed by the financial downturn that has prevailed for the past year. He promised the faculty's full support in confronting the current difficulties and its continued collaboration with the Administration's efforts to enhance Brown's status as a stellar institution. Professor Tan reminded those present that the primary goal of the PAE is to move Brown forward towards becoming a leading research institution with a global presence while maintaining its distinctive character as a "university-college". He spoke of the need to remain upbeat even as the current financial reality requires hard decisions to be made.

In outlining the FEC's plans for the year ahead, Professor Tan reported that the FEC will focus on how it can effectively help to shape the work of the Organizational Review Committee (ORC) so that Academic Priorities take precedence when decisions are made. He asserted that the FEC stands ready to work with the Administration on any issues that may require attention as a result of the NEASC report. Other items on the FEC's agenda include: Procedure for Faculty Dismissal, Review Process for Sexual Harassment Cases, the Academic Calendar for 2013, the Conflict of Interest Policy, and faculty participation in Faculty Governance through committees and Faculty Meetings.

Professor Tan then invited Professor Andrea Simmons to report for the Committee on Nominations. The following nominations for committee appointments were presented:

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

Advisory Committee on Corporate Responsibilities in Investment Policies
Christopher Bull (Engineering) to replace Stephen Houston (Anthropology) until 6/30/12

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)

Thomas Lewis (Religious Studies) to replace Nicolas Wey-Gomez (Hispanic Studies) until 6/30/10

Tenure, Promotion and Appointments Committee (TPAC)

Philip Leis (Anthropology) to replace Alan Zuckerman (Political Science) to 12/31/09

Nominations recommended to the Faculty for Committee Appointments to be effective January 1, 2010:

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)

Martin Maxey (Applied Mathematics) to replace Gabriel Taubin (Engineering) to 6/30/10

The President called for further nominations. There were none and the slate was elected unanimously. Professor Simmons reported that the Committee on Nominations was working hard to fill three ballots this semester. Noting the urgency of two of these ballots, she invited nominations and self-nominations for two tenured faculty members in the Social Sciences to run for Vice Chair of FEC and two tenured faculty members in the Social Sciences to run for a vacant slot on the Tenure, Promotions and Appointments Committee (TPAC). The ballot for the University Resources Committee (URC) would be filled later. Other vacancies exist and the Committee on Nominations hopes to bring forward nominations at the October meeting to fill a position for a non-BioMed faculty member on Committee on Medical Faculty Appointments (CMFA) and the position of the Secretary of the Faculty Forum.

President Simmons prefaced her remarks with a welcome to the new members of the Brown faculty. She is pleased that Professor Chung-I Tan has agreed to serve as Chair of the FEC and she looks forward to working with him and his FEC colleagues this year. She apologized for misforecasting the New England weather and moving the President's reception inside to Sayles Hall. President Simmons then introduced some old and new faces serving in new roles in her administration: Valerie Wilson has succeeded Brenda Allen as Associate Provost and Director of Institutional Diversity; Matt Gutmann, Professor of Anthropology, has accepted the position of Vice President for International Affairs; Michael Kennedy has been appointed Professor of Sociology and International Studies and Howard R. Swearer Director of the Watson Institute; Hanna Rodriguez-Farrar, a Brown alumnus of both the college and the Graduate School, has filled the position of Assistant to the President.

President Simmons proceeded to give an update on the University's finances. She reviewed the Corporation's mandate to reduce expenditures by some \$95 million over a five year period. She explained the source of the 23.1% decrease in the value of the Brown endowment between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. Public equity investments fell 30.7%, in line with the global markets; hedged strategies fell 14.3%; private equity

fell 22.6%; real assets were hit hardest, falling almost 40%. On the other hand, fixed income performed well during the crisis returning +7.6% for the year. In FY09, the endowment paid out \$132 million for operations but received \$44 million in new gifts, thus ending the year with slightly more than \$2 billion – a decline of \$750 million (26.6%). The Administration will meet Friday with members of the Corporation to discuss the expected pace of recovery and the implications for Brown's financial planning. E&G budget reductions in the amount of \$35M were achieved in FY10 through a combination of efforts including an across-the-board salary freeze and the elimination of 67 staff positions, many by attrition. The Corporation has asked the Administration to identify an additional \$30M in budget reductions by FY11. The Organizational Review Committee, the URC, and the Budget and Finance Committee of the Corporation will identify measures to achieve these cuts this Fall and make recommendations to the Corporation in February 2010. President Simmons promised to keep the community involved and informed.

The President continued her report with a discussion of advancement. For the benefit of faculty away for the summer, she began by repeating the announcement of Ron Vanden Dorpel's intended retirement and his willingness to stay on as needed to assist in a smooth transition to a new Vice President for Advancement. A committee has been organized to search for his successor and an announcement will be issued shortly once a faculty member has been identified for the committee. President Simmons praised the outstanding fundraising results of the Advancement team and their volunteers during a horrendous fiscal year. The campaign total stands at \$1,421,020,566 with fifteen months remaining. Gifts and pledges to the endowment to date have exceeded \$648M and \$175M has been received in new gifts and pledges. The Brown Annual Fund finished the year at \$34,959,701, just 0.4% under the previous year's result. 31,279 donors participated. With the exception of Cornell, all of our peers reported significant declines in annual funds. Other fundraising highlights mentioned by the President included an annual record of \$6.2M set by the Parents Fund, reunion giving reached 70% of the original goal, and total cash giving reached an all time record of \$193.5M – an 8.9% increase over the previous year. President Simmons expressed her sincere gratitude to all those who had made gifts and pledges and thanked the Advancement staff for this wonderful result. The Faculty's enthusiastic applause marked its resonance with her sentiments.

After welcoming new faculty to Brown, Provost Kertzer began his report with two routine items. On the issue of health, he hoped that there would not be hundreds of students sick with the H1N1 virus but he asked faculty to be prepared to deal with larger than usual numbers of absences from class. He encouraged faculty to use the internet to post course material to assist students needing to catch up on missed classes. Deans would continue to provide approval for students needing to miss midterms and Finals.

The second item concerned an update on capital projects. Faunce House is now closed for renovations but the Provost noted, in true RI form, that a new Blue Room is operating out of the area where the mailboxes used to be. Extensive renovation will begin in March 2010 at 222 Richmond Street for the new Medical Education Building. Plans are moving forward to renovate Metcalf for the planned merger of Cognitive and

Linguistic Sciences (CLS) and Psychology. Temporary quarters in Wayland Square and some space in Hunter Lab will house CLS during the Metcalf renovations which are expected to take up to 1.5 years. Renovations to RI Hall are complete and its transformation is spectacular.

The final item on the Provost's report concerned the NEASC report. The Provost briefly reviewed the history of the reaccreditation process. Although he had originally planned to share the report with faculty at the beginning of this academic year, the Provost explained that its release to the community before November is constrained by NEASC rules. However, the Corporation wants to begin vetting the recommendations immediately. Consequently, the Academic Priorities Committee will discuss the report this Fall. The Chair of FEC has been given a copy of the report. Of greatest concern among the areas identified as needing attention is the high rate of tenure at Brown relative to other Ivies. The Provost plans to convene a special committee to look into this and other matters related to tenure and promotion at Brown. Six to eight faculty members will be asked to serve along with the Dean of the Faculty and Dean of Biology and Medicine. The committee will be chaired by the Provost. The FEC will supply names of possible faculty. The President offered a clarification regarding release of the NEASC report explaining that there is no strict prohibition against its release prior to November but that NEASC advises against it.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth M. Colwill
Secretary of the Faculty