

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FACULTY MEETING

September 5, 2007

With the customary motion to adjourn before 5:00 p.m. and a vote to affirm approval of the minutes, the meeting convened at 4:03 p.m. Professor Colwill as chair of the FEC welcomed the Faculty with thanks for their support and introductions of an effective and dedicated slate of incoming FEC officers and members. She called attention to the continuing review of faculty governance, where meaningful work on committees makes the Faculty equal partners with the administration in the future of the University, and she called for celebrating what is in place and works, while strengthening or fixing what is not working well. The FEC intends to focus on areas that need more work, such the clarification of committee charges. A new initiative will be “talk-back” Monday luncheons in the chancellor’s dining room open to continuing and new faculty members. Topics will cover a variety of issues including the Brown faculty governance processes, how to get things done at Brown, IRB approval procedures, communications (controller, benefits, grant-writing) and the tenure and promotion process as currently operating under TPAC. In larger terms, the FEC will host discussions of the images of Brown and what they mean to our identity and our future, bearing in mind the responsibility of the Faculty to nurture and shape these images. She called to mind Plato’s admonition that if no one pays much attention to public affairs evil people will be in charge with the later suggestions that it might be stupid people or both. She commented that while being a department chair is like being pecked to death by ducks, being chair of the FEC is more like marching with penguins. Professor Colwill ended her report with a motion to adopt the slate for a one year replacement on the Committee on Nominations, presenting Andrea Simmons, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience to replace Sally Zierler, Professor of Medical Science. The motion carried.

Professor Colwill then called on Professor Ann Dill, former chair of the FEC, to share with the Faculty a letter from former Chancellor Stephen Robert expressing his gratitude for the honor of the Rosenberger Medal. Professor Dill noted the need for a new Rosenberger plaque, the existing one being too full to include the new honoree.

Professor Wegner signaled the solicitation by the Faculty Bulletin of articles reflecting images of Brown as suggested by Professor Colwill.

President Simmons welcomed the 43 new faculty members joining us and noted the information about them distributed at this meeting. She drew attention to the 70 constructions projects undertaken over the summer at a cost of over \$25,000,000, from basic renewals and upgrades to laboratory renovations in Metcalf and the relocation of the 300 tons of Peter Green House up to the corner of Olive and Brown, thus marking the start of the Walk. The Campus Beautification Project on the Main Green began with dirt and destruction but is now in the final stages of lighting and landscaping improvements, as well as new campus-wide signage soon to be completed. Wilson has been unveiled to display a major exterior renovation, and Slater has also been painted and given interior renovation. Work was completed at Wriston, Keeney, and Gregorian quads to improve

accessibility and ensure ADA compliance. At the Athletic Complex, the varsity tennis courts were replaced and two new turf fields installed. In July construction began on the temporary pool to behind Olney Margolis. Plans for a permanent facility are under way. Another major effort still in progress is the comprehensive renovation of the heating and cooling system. Following the completion of the Angell-Waterman segment of this project, the area will be transformed into the first major section of the Campus Walk. Work is soon to begin on Pembroke Hall for the Cogut Humanities Center on renovations to adapt J. Walter Wilson to a consolidate student services.

The Campaign for Academic Enrichment exceeded the \$1 billion mark and finished the fiscal year at \$1,022,112,441 at %73 percent of the goal, with \$496 million for endowment, over \$165 for facilities, and \$172 for current-use unrestricted purposes. Total giving has reached \$1.039 billion, with record giving from new gifts, total cash giving, and the Brown Annual Fund.

In volatile markets, the Long-Term Pool returned %21.7 and over the trailing one, three, and five year periods, the Pool outperformed its benchmark of inflation plus 5.5% We began the fiscal year with \$2.3 billion and closed with just under \$2.8. Fund managers remain focused on strategies for dealing with current risks and opportunities, and the moment calls to mind Warren Buffet's bons mots that it's only when the tide goes out that one discovers where one has been swimming.

President Simmons's commented on the decision by the Union of College and University Professors in Great Britain to debate whether to boycott Israeli academic institutions. She called the proposal evil in its inherent attempt to hold the academy hostages of the goals and interests of the Union. Where such attempts have succeeded in the past states have accelerated their tyranny over freedom of speech, societal commerce has been poisoned and all freedoms have been compromised. This proposal is also in effect an attack on individual scholars.

In response to question about the total endowment, Vice President Huidekoper was asked for a clarification: of the \$2.8 billion \$2.6 is permanent and the remainder working capital.

Provost Kertzer, deleting his planned references to Plato and Warren Buffet, introduced Michael Pickett, our new Vice President for Computing and Information Systems. He reported on the work of the Science Education Committee chaired by Karen Fisher, which will release a revised report on September 14 following a lively Faculty Forum last April and ongoing work over the summer months.

The Task Force on Undergraduate Education chaired by Dean Bergeron will meet twice monthly this fall, dividing areas in the categories of general education, concentrations, advising, and pedagogy into charges for a smaller subcommittee and holding meetings with departments throughout the year to the end of producing initial findings in January for community discussion.

Dean Bonde will convene a working group on graduate education to consider the size and scope of the Graduate School and the critical role of research in graduate training and support. A report is scheduled for early spring. Department may expect to be solicited for information, particularly about placement.

Student and faculty responses to the survey conducted by the Classroom Task Force suggest agreement that the most important ways to improve classrooms would be 1) to improve the physical environment in such matters as lighting and seating, 2) to increase flexible teaching spaces, 3) to increase the number of classroom with AV, and 4) to increase the total numbers of classrooms. With additional information from Facilities Management and the Registrar, the administration plans to prioritize the recommendations and report a plan of action.

Information on the Committee on Internationalization will be available online tomorrow, information about seed funds is expected in mid month, and the appointment of a Vice President expected around October 1 for a January 1 arrival.

The NEASC reaccreditation review process coordinated by Associate Provost Brenda Allen will dovetail with the undergraduate task force completing the self-study over the coming year with a site visit anticipated in March 2009.

Professor Gatsonis proposed slates for replacement positions as a motion from the Committee on Nominations, appointments to be effective immediately.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (FAC)

Michael Steinberg (History) to replace Robert Self (History) to 6/30/08

Michael Satlow (Judaic Studies) to replace Mary Ann Doane (MCM) to 12/31/07

COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY IN HIRING (CDH)

James Green (History) to replace Matthew Garcia (Anthropology) to 6/30/08

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COUNCIL (CCC)

Jack Wright (Psychology) to replace Leslie Welch (Psychology) to 6/30/09

Richard Meckel (American Civilization) to replace Pauline Luong (Political Science) to 6/30/10

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN INVESTMENT POLICIES

Simone Pulver (International Studies) to replace Stephen Houston (Anthropology) to 6/30/08

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDING (CAS)

Melinda Rabb (English) to replace Ross Kraemer (Religious Studies) to 6/30/10

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Linda Cook (Political Science) to replace Jennifer Lawless (Political Science) to 6/30/10

Mary Hixon (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine) to replace Michael Tarr (Cognitive & Linguistic Sciences) to 6/30/08

TENURE, PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (TPAC)

Nancy Armstrong (English/Comparative Literature/MCM) replacing Arlene Keizer (English/American Civilization) to 6/30/08

Maggie Bickford (History of Art & Architecture) replacing Massimo Riva (Italian Studies) to 6/30/08

The nominations were approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Merrim Foley
Secretary of the Faculty