

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Minutes of Faculty Meeting September 6, 2005

President Simmons called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. The usual motion to adjourn at 5:00 PM was moved, seconded, and passed. The minutes of the meeting of May 27, 2005 were approved.

President Simmons spoke to the Faculty. She welcomed all back from the summer. She regretted that we begin on the heels of tragedy. She described the various ways that Brown is trying to help, including having some members of the Brown community directly assisting. We are doing our best to support students and faculty from colleges and universities that are unable to reopen this semester. She noted that we are assisting several colleges in the New Orleans area, not just Tulane—a news article was mistaken. She also noted that not all of her own family is presently accounted for. The Dean of the College has reported that all first year students from the area have arrived, although not all returning students are accounted for. Sidney Frank has given the University \$5 million to support our work in assisting those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

She said that, although she has said it in the past, the Class of 2009 does seem like the best ever. The Class of 2009, the third to enter under our need blind policy, contains 1,450 members, chosen from nearly 17,000 applicants. The class is 49% male and 51% female and at least 48 states and 43 nations are represented. We will have our first Sidney Frank Scholars this year. Of the 60 students awarded Sidney Frank Scholarships, the average parental income is reported as \$18,600. At least 37 of the students are the first in their families to attend college.

Applications to the Graduate School were up over last year, including a surprising increase in international applications—most universities suffered a decline in this area. We received 5,750 applications and accepted 18% of these; 41.7% of these have matriculated, a slight increase over last year. Many departments attracted top ranked applicants and had at least one of their three top candidates accept. The number of minority applicants to the Graduate School increased also, as did the matriculation rate.

The Medical School will enroll 72 new students—57% female, 44% of color. Fifty per cent were science concentrators as undergraduates; 22 undergraduate institutions are represented.

We also welcome more than 40 new faculty members. The next issue of Inside Brown will include information about these new colleagues.

The numbers from Development are equally impressive. A record-setting 30,230 members of the Brown Community made gifts to the Annual Fund, for a total gift of \$25,077,372—an all time high. Brown's Parents Annual Fund continues as a national leader with \$3.36 million received from non-alumni parents. The public phase of the Campaign for Academic Enrichment will be launched on October 22 on campus with major kickoff events later around the country. Faculty involvement is needed and the Development Office leaders will be in contact with faculty members.

The President noted that the University has purchased 121 South Main Street, the former Old Stone Square. During the summer we hired Rebecca Barnes '71 to be Director of Strategic Growth. Ms. Barnes had been Boston's Chief Planner. Jim Miller '73 has returned to Brown as

Dean of Admission. Mr. Miller had most recently been Dean of Admission at Bowdoin College. Harriette Hemmasi will be the Joukowsky Family Librarian. Ms. Hemmasi had been Executive Associate Dean of libraries at Indiana University. The President thanked the many search committees. The President also noted how pleased she was that Sheila Bonde is the new Dean of the Graduate School.

Finally the President commented on a letter she received, signed by 38 faculty members, suggesting that the University offer more frequent sabbaticals, rather than the 16 competitive research fellowships proposed last spring. She has asked the Dean of the Faculty to consider these comments. She expects a gradual change in the frequency of sabbaticals.

Professor Silverman asked about the number of 1,450 new students; it seemed high and Prof. Silverman asked if the intention was to increase the number of undergraduate students. The President said the Corporation was opposed to increasing the number of undergraduates. The large number of new students this year reflects the vagaries of yearly enrollments. She is considering a proposal to the Corporation addressing the national need for more students in mathematics and science. The students displaced by Hurricane Katrina will be special students and are not expected to remain at Brown.

Professor Robert Pelcovits, Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee, spoke next. He said he was very grateful for the leadership President Simmons and other members of the administration have shown in response to the hurricane tragedy. He had looked on web sites of other universities and none seemed to be doing more than Brown. These remarks were met with applause. Prof. Pelcovits acknowledged the strong work of his predecessor, Prof. Bossy, noting that Prof. Bossy had served as both Chair of the FEC and of the French Department last year. Prof. Pelcovits welcomed Prof. Dill, who will be the third person of the triumvirate leading the FEC. Prof. Pelcovits reminded the Faculty of the procedural problem existing last spring before the Nominations Committee was formed. He thanked Faculty members serving on committees beyond their usual terms and said ballots for both the Nominations Committee and for other committees are being prepared.

The FEC will address three issues this year:

1. Establishment of an Ombudsperson. The President is committed to this position and the FEC is working with Vice President Brenda Allen in the planning.
2. The enhanced leave policy mentioned by the President.
3. The role of the faculty in the Campaign.

The FEC is always open to hearing feedback from the faculty on these issues or others. He encouraged faculty members to use the Sounding Board on the FEC web site—it is moderated.

Prof. Sibulkin asked how the Ombudsperson will be selected—not yet decided. The President urged faculty members who have been at institutions with an Ombudsperson to communicate with the FEC. Prof. Brem asked whether the Ombudsperson would have jurisdiction off campus, such as with Medical School matters. Prof. Simmons answered that if such a person is to be fully useful they must have a wide latitude of responsibilities. The concept of the position must be widely embraced.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM to the Faculty Reception.

Respectfully submitted,

Barrett Hazeltine
Secretary of the Faculty