

removal from catalog next Fall (we are in the process of recruiting for 2012-2013 and cannot change our program offerings). She has asked faculty to work with Deans' Council to develop criteria and processes for reviewing programs for possible closure or other changes.

Provost Barnett added that she has asked deans of these programs to justify their continuation.

Prof. Steve Rice, convener of American Studies, stated that in a conversation with AIS Dean Nejad, he was informed that this major might be removed from the catalog for Fall 2013 if it did not increase enrollment by Fall 2012 (at which time the catalog for 2013-14 is set). Provost Barnett cannot verify this.

Faculty raise questions about the data used in identifying programs that now need to justify themselves. Several state that other data is relevant, such as impact on general education, relevance of a program to the mission of the college, etc. Several faculty request the financial data on which this process has been initiated, and raise doubts that cutting academic programs can do anything other than make Ramapo less attractive to potential students. Provost Barnett indicated that data such as that currently being distributed in the Delaware Study contain only faculty compensation as costs and ignore all overhead and indirect costs. The accuracy of the data used within the Delaware study must be verified and additional costs must be factored in.

Rep. Weiss suggests that, before faculty are asked to justify the continuation of academic programs, the administration should present us with compelling evidence that any program changes contemplated would save the college money. Rep Weiss also refers us to the FA-approved decision of 2010 (see resolution below). Several faculty speak in agreement with the argument that the administration should provide justification for pursuing changes to academic programs, rather

Rep. Weiss suggests that it is unlikely that the Board of Trustees' will arbitrarily close an academic program. They are a reasonable group of people who will want a persuasive rationale before they begin considering closing programs. This semester was the first time the faculty was asked to develop these criteria and process, and only after a convener was informed their program might be in jeopardy.

The FAEC introduces the following motion:

“Whereas the Faculty Assembly, in consultation with and approval of the Provost, passed a resolution on November 17, 2010, stating that ‘proposed actions to be taken by the College on academic and curricular matters are to be reviewed by the Faculty Assembly Academic Review Committee, the recommendation of which is required before the actions may be taken,’ and Whereas all academic programs are certified by the ARC and approved by the Faculty Assembly, It is hereby resolved that no termination of a major shall proceed without the consent of the ARC and the Faculty Assembly.”

Rationale: This resolution expresses the sentiment of the faculty that it does not approve of the termination of academic programs without faculty advice and consent.

Out of 132 votes cast, 94% voted in favor of the motion; 4% voted against, and 2% abstained.

5. Union Report (Librarian and AFT Local 2274 Pres. Irene Kutcha)

Of the nine other NJ colleges in our union, she has heard from four regarding sabbatical. Three schools have proceeded with the process of reviewing applications for sabbatical, but it is not clear any will be awarded. One other has suspended the review process, like us. The college presidents are soon going to hold a conference call to discuss this.

AFT has voted nearly unanimously that we should proceed with process, so units should move forward with sabbatical review. She will call an all-college sabbatical review committee.

Two other resolutions were passed by the AFT at the last meeting. One urged Pres. Mercer to work with other presidents to pressure the state to negotiate in good faith over the contract. The second states that, until the state agrees to a new contract, faculty will not participate in any recruitment activities (open houses, immediate decision days, etc). AFT now is calling upon faculty not to attend these events.

The next union meeting is two weeks from today.

7. New Business

Prof. Kim Lorber of SSHS raises concerns about G wing renovations and impact on SSHS and TAS faculty offices. Faculty require the ability to lock their offices, which contain private student records, and to have privacy for meeting with students. It appears

the current plans to move faculty to trailers do not include lockable, private offices for individual faculty members. She requests that FAEC take up this issue, and has already raised it with SSHS's union rep.

8. Close of meeting 1:55 pm

9. Announcements

Prof. Dominique Johnson announces an American Democracy Project event on Nov 30 at 6:30 pm. The topic is the financial crisis and the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Dean of CA Steve Perry announces a photography exhibit opening tonight at the Pascal Gallery. The exhibition features to work of Ramapo Prof. Jonathan Lipkin.

* That document can be found under the title ““Fall 2011 Enrollment by Major, Second Major, and Minors” here: http://ww2.ramapo.edu/administration/oirp/faculty_info.aspx