

Faculty Executive Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) would like to begin by expressing gratitude to some key people with whom FEC has worked closely this academic year: Michael Orr, Debbie Peterson and the entire Office of the Dean of the Faculty; Jesse Rock, Tony Kowalick, and Michelle Osgood from IT; and Idalia Sepulveda (now with the Career Development Center), Amy Ballesteros, and the entire website team from the Office of Communications and Marketing. We are so grateful to these colleagues for their expertise, energy, and support of FEC's work throughout this year.

FEC's work began in July with requests for replacements from committees. FEC was also invited by a group of faculty to join the discussion of their proposed initiatives with President Conner and Dean Orr over the summer, and FEC was charged by President Conner to work on possible *Faculty Handbook* language changes. Finally, the FEC chair worked closely with Jesse Rock and Tony Kowalick in IT on updating the governance election software in preparation for elections in the fall. One of the major changes was to make sure that faculty members who have already fulfilled their service mandate would not be able to submit another preference sheet unless they would like to volunteer for additional service; this is to avoid duplicated preference sheets in the system.

Consistent with past years, FEC's work during the academic year included responding to faculty and committee inquiries about governance-related topics and various aspects of faculty-administration relations. Other routine work for FEC included reviewing the *Faculty Handbook* for adoption in Fall 2022, updating the FEC Operating Code, and convening the Committee of Committees meeting at the end of the fall and spring semesters (as well as writing and distributing the Committee of Committees report). In addition, FEC oversaw elections and appointments to governance committees for service beginning in AY2023–2024. As overseeing elections occupied the bulk of FEC's time during the fall semester, the addition of holding a voting process for selecting three faculty representatives to serve on two VP search committees (detailed below), facilitating the selection process for the Working Group on Inclusive and Accessible Teaching and Learning, along with coordinating the three DOF/VPAA finalists' community forums and meetings with governance committee chairs, stretched the committee quite thin in the fall. With elections and appointments to governance committees completed in the fall, FEC's work in the spring included responding to committee replacement requests, appointing two faculty representatives to the Space Planning Working Group in consultation with the co-chairs of the working group, overseeing the nomination process for selecting a faculty representative to serve on the search committee for the General Counsel and VP for Human Resources, and providing feedback to various committees on their motions and other business in addition to FEC's own work in preparation for the formal review of the current governance system due in AY2023-2024.

Meetings

FEC met 24 times in AY2022-2023; all meetings took place in person. During these regular meetings, FEC also met with the DOF/VPAA, the Working Group on Inclusive and Accessible

Teaching and Learning, and former FEC chairs. Minutes for these weekly meetings are posted on FEC's website.

The chair of FEC is a member of the Institutional Planning and Policy Committee (IPPC) and attended all scheduled meetings. Throughout the academic year, the chair of FEC also met with the DOF/VPAA monthly to discuss the faculty meeting agenda and other governance-related business. In addition, the FEC chair participated in numerous meetings with members of the faculty and IT, and FEC held a joint meeting with the Appointments and Tenure Committee (ATC) in the spring.

Governance Committee Elections and Replacements

FEC held elections to fill 19 positions on 10 governance committees. The following members of the faculty were elected to serve three-year terms, beginning Fall 2023:

Appointments and Tenure Committee (ATC): Jenny Day, Sarah DiPasquale, Larry Jorgensen,
Mary Odekon

Promotions Committee (PC): Erica Wojcik, Mark Youndt

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC): Jeremy Day-O'Connell, Ting Li

Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC): Timothy Harper

Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP): Amy Frappier, Heather Hurst, Bob
ParkeHarrison

Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR): William Lewis, Daniel Nathan

Curriculum Committee (CC): Eric Morser, Tom O'Connell (starting in Fall 2024 due to changes in
CC's membership)

Faculty Development Committee (FDC): David Vella

Periclean Honors Forum Council (PHFC): Joseph Cermatori

Athletic Council (AC): Daniel Peterson

FEC worked with the following committees to secure replacements for AY2022–2023:

Appointments and Tenure Committee (ATC): Erica Bastress-Dukehart

Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC): Peter von Allman

Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR): David Cohen (for Spring 2023), Jessica
Sullivan (for Spring 2023)

Curriculum Committee (CC): Adam Tinkle (for Spring 2023)

Periclean Honors Forum Council (PHFC): Dennis Schebetta (for Spring 2023)

FEC also worked with the following committees to secure replacements for AY2023-2024:

Appointments and Tenure Committee (ATC): Leigh Wilton

Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR): David Cohen (for Fall 2023)

Athletic Council (AC): John Cosgrove

Due to a larger cohort, the problem of not having enough candidates to run elections that had occurred in the past couple of years did not happen this year. However, the issue of staffing

committees remains, and FEC needed to send out a call for volunteers for three of the replacements due to committee membership constraints.

Governance Committee Appointments and Replacements

FEC appointed 9 members of the faculty to serve on 7 standing governance committees. Appointments for three-year terms beginning Fall 2023 are as follows:

Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU): Aiwu Zhao
Faculty Advisory Board (FAB): Gwen D'Arcangelis, Susannah Mintz
Committee on Academic Standing (CAS): Julie Douglas
Self-Determined Majors Committee (SDM): Scott Mulligan, Melora Wolff
Student Affairs Subcommittee of IPPC (SAS): Joanne Vella
Campus Sustainability Committee (CSC, subcommittee of IPPC): Christine Page
Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship (SRC, subcommittee of IPPC): Christine Reilly

FEC also appointed the following member of the faculty as a replacement for AY2022-2023:
Committee on Academic Standing (CAS): Kris Covey

In addition, FEC appointed the following member of the faculty as a replacement for AY2023-2024:

Committee on Academic Standing (CAS): Kathryn Baustian

FEC would like to express our deep gratitude and sincere appreciation for everyone's support of and participation in shared governance.

Committee of the Whole

In light of the lack of deliberative items in faculty meetings in recent years, FEC hosted a Committee of the Whole discussion in the October faculty meeting on the topic of effective use of faculty meeting time to solicit comments and feedback on what topics faculty would like to spend time on at faculty meetings and seek suggestions for ways to make faculty meetings more meaningful for the faculty. FEC followed the conversation with a brief survey that showed majority of the faculty interested in attending faculty-only meetings and a split view on whether reports from the President and the DOF/VPAA should be moved to the beginning of the faculty meeting. Faculty also shared topics of interest and expressed the hope for sufficient Q&A time after the President's report. Results of the survey were shared with the faculty.

In response, FEC, in consultation with the DOF/VPAA, decided to (1) leave the reports at the end of the meeting but allow for the flexibility to move the reports to the beginning when there are no business items; and (2) aim for reserving at least 10 minutes for Q&A after the reports. FEC also hosted two faculty-only meetings this year and worked with committee chairs to bring motions and business items to the faculty floor. With further conversations with the DOF/VPAA, FEC decided to find a different location to host faculty meetings in the hope of facilitating faculty participation and engagement. As a result, faculty meetings this year were held in the Payne Room at the Tang Teaching Museum in December and February and the 2nd floor of Murray-Aikins in March and April besides the usual location of the Gannett Auditorium. Moving

forward, as long as the hybrid format is kept for faculty meetings, FEC considers the 2nd floor of the dining hall to be the better venue.

Although no Committee of the Whole was held in the spring, FEC made a presentation in the February faculty meeting to provide an overview of the current governance system and answer immediate questions from the faculty.

Faculty-Only Meetings

FEC held two faculty-only meetings in hybrid format this year, one on Dec. 9 on post-pandemic teaching and the other on April 14 on governance system review. In the Dec. 9 meeting, more than 70 faculty attended and discussed the challenges of supporting students since the pandemic, the strategies they used, and what kind of institutional resources and support would be helpful. In the April 14 meeting, more than 50 faculty attended and shared what values of service and shared governance were important to them and if and how the current governance system met those values. Summaries of notes from the two meetings were shared with the faculty and archived on FEC's website.

Committee of Committees

FEC convened two meetings of the Committee of Committees. The first meeting was held via Zoom on December 13, 2022. FEC presented this report and provided an opportunity for faculty discussion during the faculty meeting on February 3, 2023. The second Committee of Committees meeting was held in-person on May 5, 2023. FEC plans to present the report and provide an opportunity for faculty discussion during one of the first two faculty meetings in Fall 2023.

Search Committees and Working Groups

During the fall semester, FEC worked with President Conner and ATC in soliciting nominations/self-nominations and holding a vote for two faculty representative to serve on the Search Committee for VP for Finance and Administration and one faculty representative to serve on the Search Committee for VP for Admissions and Financial Aid.

FEC was also consulted on the forming of the Working Group on Inclusive and Accessible Teaching and Learning funded by a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) grant. FEC sent out the call for service, confirmed nominees' willingness to serve, and forwarded a survey to candidates to gather information on their relevant experience. FEC forwarded all nominations to a group composed of the DOF/VPAA, the chairs of CEPP, ATC, PC, CAFR, and the project director for the HHMI grant, who made the final decision on the membership of the Working Group.

In the spring, FEC solicited nominations/self-nominations for two faculty members to serve on the Space Planning Working Group and gathered information on the candidates' relevant experience. FEC then, in consultation with the co-chairs of the Space Planning Working Group, appointed two faculty representatives to serve for three semesters, beginning Spring 2023. Whether this Working Group will become an IPPC subcommittee and how to select faculty

representatives moving forward are pending resolution from the formal review of the faculty governance structure in AY2023-2024.

FEC also worked with President Conner and ATC again in the spring to solicit nominations/self-nominations for a faculty representative to serve on the Search Committee for the General Counsel and VP for Human Resources, a new cabinet-level position. Since there was only one candidate who accepted their nomination, no voting was conducted.

Other Business

In the fall, FEC was consulted by the Associate Dean of the Faculty on the appointment of a faculty member to serve on the Palamountain Prose Award Committee. FEC was also consulted for appointing a faculty member to serve on the Campus Safety Advisory Committee. Since this committee is not a governance committee, as consistent with past practices, FEC decided to delegate the appointment to the DOF office. FEC did, however, have a discussion on appointments to non-governance committees, what serving on non-governance committees – some are required by NYS law – means for faculty's service load, as it does not count toward faculty's mandated governance service, and how appointments like these can further drain the ad hoc pool, if they come from FEC. This is an issue to be further discussed as FEC formally reviews the current governance system in AY2023-2024.

The chair of FEC was invited by President Conner to moderate the community forum for the three DOF/VPAA finalists and also co-hosted, with the IPPC vice chair, the three candidates' meeting with the governance committee chairs.

In the spring, FEC reviewed the motions brought by CAS, CC, CEPP, and PC regarding minimum standards for student continuation, changes in CC membership, syllabus policy, and unsolicited letters respectively, and offered feedback. FEC also worked closely with CC to develop a plan to roll out the changes in CC membership and offered feedback on procedures regarding the termination of two majors (the MB-PL interdepartmental major and the French Area Studies major) and the creation of a minor in Entrepreneurship. FEC was also consulted by PC on its revised calendar and by CAFR on addressing its potential summer work in its Operating Code.

In addition, FEC proposed to ATC some possible revisions to the *Faculty Handbook* language and the two committees held a joint meeting on this in the spring. Although the two committees decided not to pursue the changes as is, that meeting generated constructive conversations. FEC hopes to continue the efforts.

2022-2023 FEC Members:

Xiaoshuo Hou (Sociology and Asian Studies, **Chair**)
Jason Ohlberg (Dance)
Oscar Perez-Hernandez (World Languages and Literatures)
Dominique Vuvan (Psychology)

2023-2024 FEC Members:

Jeremy Day-O'Connell (Music)
Ting Li (Management and Business)

Oscar Perez-Hernandez (World Languages and Literatures)
Dominique Vuvan (Psychology, **Chair**)

Incoming Chairs/Directors of Governance Committees for 2023-2024

Appointments and Tenure Committee (ATC): Marketa Wolfe
Promotions Committee (PC): Bernie Possidente
Faculty Executive Committee (FEC): Dominique Vuvan
Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC): Smriti Tiwari
Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP): Nick Junkerman
Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR): AJ Schneller
Curriculum Committee (CC): Chris Vecsey
Faculty Development Committee (FDC): Pushi Prasad
Periclean Honors Forum Council (PHFC): Flagg Taylor
Athletic Council (AC): Lucy Oremland
Faculty Advisory Board (FAB): Unknown
Committee on Academic Standing (CAS): Kyle Nichols
Self-Determined Majors Committee (SDMC): Catherine Berheide
Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU): Masako Inamoto