

## **Minutes of the Emory Faculty Council**

20 January 1998  
Houston Mill House

**In attendance:** John Boli, W. Virgil Brown, Susie Buchter, William Chace, Rebecca Chopp, Terry Clark, William Cody, Douglas Falls, Billy E. Frye, Luke Johnson, Laura Porter Kimble, Harriet King, Kevin LaGree, Sharon Lewis, Jerre Lutz, Helen O'Shea, David Pacini, Deepika Petraglia-Bahri, Gay Robins, Jeffrey Rosensweig, Rick Rubinson, Mike Terrazas, Frank Vandall, Nanette Wenger

**Excused absences:** Rich Freer, Judith Kapp, Winfield Sale, Claire Sterk, Randall Strahan

**Guests:** Susan Frost

### **I. Welcome and Announcements**

Faculty Council Chair William Cody called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. After welcoming all council members and guests, he introduced DeAnna Spurlin of the Provost's Office who will assume administrative and support responsibilities for both the University Senate and the Faculty Council. He then announced the Spring Town Hall meeting, which will occur on Thursday 19 February 1998. The topic of the meeting will be research; panelists will include President William Chace, Interim Provost Rebecca Chopp, and Vice-President for Research Dennis Liotta. Noting that suggestions for revisions from the Faculty Council have been few in number, Council Chair Cody urged more responses. He concluded by announcing that the minutes of the November meeting had yet to be distributed, and requested that they be considered for approval at the February meeting of the Council.

### **II. Brief Report on Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities and Learning**

David Pacini reported that an Ad Hoc Committee on Disabilities and Learning had been established, and would soon meet. The members are John Banja, Gordon Newby, Karen Stolley, and David Pacini, Chair. He announced that the task of the committee is to develop recommendations that will enhance the teaching and learning experiences of faculty and students who are addressing disability issues. After consultation and review with representatives from the Student Government Association, the Office of Equal Opportunity, and specialists in the field of disabilities education, the committee will bring its recommendations to the February meeting of the Council.

### **III. Discussion of Beginning Implementation of Teaching Commission Report**

Interim Provost Rebecca Chopp introduced the discussion with the observation that the discussion series held by the Teaching Commission report had raised the level of consciousness within the University regarding teaching. She then introduced Vice-

Provost Susan Frost and invited her to share the results of the twenty-five "Teaching at Emory" faculty luncheons.

Vice-Provost Frost reported that among the numerous points introduced in the luncheon discussions, five emerged as recurring themes:

- Evaluation: There is an uneasiness about a) both the imprecise definition of and the feasibility of evaluating teaching; b) the prospect of new bureaucracy; c) the inevitability of even more paperwork.
- Priority of Teaching: There is significant interest in making teaching a higher priority, as well as in promoting the view that teaching and research are complementary.
- Faculty Development: There is recognition that all of the schools need to shore up and enlarge their efforts in the area of faculty development. Similarly, there is recognition that additional, central resources and support to enhance teaching in all the faculties would be of value.
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- Infrastructure: There is uniform alarm about the condition of many of our classrooms and some of our buildings.

Interim Provost Chopp circulated a summary of the implementation plans for the recommendations (See Addenda), and extended discussion followed.

#### **IV. Presentation of Draft of *A Vision for Emory: Implementing Choices and Responsibility***

Chancellor Billy Frye distributed copies of the draft of *A Vision for Emory: Implementing Choices and Responsibility* to all members of the Council and began his presentation with an explanation of the structure of the document. Thus far, the plan consists of five parts. The first part serves as the introduction and addresses the genesis of the project from *Choices & Responsibility*, as well as Emory's commitment to academic excellence (an issue not addressed in *Choices & Responsibility*). The introduction also clarifies Emory's historical perspective and assesses the environment in which Emory must operate today, offering an outline and explanation of factors in the external environment which influence the growth and operation of Emory, and a brief expository on the nature of the research university. Part two of *A Vision for Emory ...* focuses on six objectives which serve as bridging statements that lead back to *Choices & Responsibility*. These objectives address the following issues: academic excellence, teaching and research, scholarly community, interdisciplinary scholarship, infrastructure needs, and Emory's external relationships. Part three presents approximately 40 explicit recommendations sequenced by objective. Chancellor Frye pointed out that there was an enormous interconnectedness among the recommendations. He also noted that the recommendation on external relationships is sketchy at this time because discussion has not generated much input on this issue to date. He hopes to have more input soon and have this section completed by the end of next week. Part four acknowledges the importance of several factors in implementing *A Vision for Emory*. These factors include identifying additional resources, developing leadership capabilities, establishing clear

lines of accountability, building stronger communication and governance structures, creating stronger links between priorities and budgeting, checking for and correcting inconsistencies among University plans and policies, and establishing annual goals. This section then offers a summary of plans for each unit.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Faculty Council President Cody adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Pacini, Secretary