

**Minutes of the Emory University Faculty Council
21 March 2006
400 Administration Building**

In attendance: Allison Adams, Patricia Brennan, Bill Buzbee, Ronald Calabrese, David Carr, Arlene Chapman, Steven Culler, Thomas Frank, Maggie Gilead, Frank Gordon, Carol Hogue, Nadine Kaslow, Connie Kertz, Harriet King, Earl Lewis, Frank Maddox, Richard Metters, Judy Raggi-Moore, Carol Newsom, Ruth Parker, Michael Rogers, Claire Sterk, Sharon Strocchia, Daniel Teodorescu, Michael Terrazas, James Wagner, Steve Walton.

Excused: Richard Doner, Jan Gleason, James Hughes, Kenneth Minneman, David Pacini, Rick Rambuss, Judith Rohrer, Richard Ward, Nanette Wenger.

Absent: Robert Ahdieh, Mahlon DeLong, Arri Eisen, Kate Heilpern, Bill Kelly.

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Faculty Council Chair Michael Rogers called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m. He thanked Past-Chair Sharon Strocchia for her leadership and commitment to the Faculty Council over the last three years. Council members acknowledged their appreciation with a round of applause.

II. Approval of February 2006 minutes

The minutes were approved with one change to the attendance: Ruth Parker was listed as absent but should have been listed as present.

III. Update – Faculty Counselor Nominations – Sharon Strocchia

Past-Chair Strocchia told the Faculty Council that the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee (of which she serves as chair) issued an open call for nominations this spring to identify a pool of candidates for Faculty Counselor positions on the Board of Trustees. (The committee also generated some of its own nominations to supplement the open call.) A total of 14 nominations were received; 12 of those names have been put forward for the next round. A full list of names will be given to the Faculty Council in April.

IV. Remarks by Provost Earl Lewis

Provost Lewis told Faculty Council members, first, that his office is continuing searches for several hires, including deans for the Law School and for Candler, a director of libraries, an Ethics Center director, and a Senior Vice Provost for Community, Diversity, and Institutional Development.

Second, the Provost said that his office will provide information about the first round of strategic funds allocations within the next few weeks. Two areas in particular are likely to receive significant aid: faculty recruitment/development/retention and student financial support. Decisions about funding allocations are a learning process for all involved, he added: “We’re discovering things as we go along.”

Finally, the Provost delivered an update on this year’s university-wide seminar series on the cross-cutting initiatives of the strategic plan. The seminar has gone well, and a concluding meeting (open to all members of the Emory community) will convene later this spring to explore how the six themes relate to one another.

V. Distinguished Faculty Lecturer 2007 – Tom Frank

Chair-Elect Tom Frank, who also serves as Chair of the Distinguished Faculty Lecture Committee, said that his committee received 21 nominations for the 2007 lecturer. He brought forward the name of the selected nominee to the Council for a vote. [The nominee’s name remains confidential at this time.] The nominee was approved unanimously; the name now goes to the President’s office.

VI. Extending the Life of DFL Nominations – Preliminary Discussion

Chair Rogers invited suggestions from Faculty Council members on the topic of DFL nominations and their expiration dates. Currently, these nominations expire or are discarded at the end of each year. In the past, they used to be kept active for several years. Rogers explained that the Executive Committee would like to return to the old way of doing things. But the committee remains uncertain about the best way to store and pass along nomination letters from year to year without (a) breaching confidentiality issues, (b) losing or misplacing files, or (c) getting bogged down in staffing logistics (due to the transitory nature of the Senate Assistant position).

Faculty Council members offered suggestions. One member proposed that the nomination letters be stored alongside honorary degree nominations in the University Secretary’s office. Another suggested that a three-ring binder be placed in the Senate office and updated / overseen by whomever is serving as the

Senate Assistant in a given year. Still others raised questions about how many years a nomination should be kept active – three years seemed to be a general consensus.

Chair Rogers said that the Executive Committee will consider these suggestions and come back with a specific proposal in April.

VII. Emory's Value(s) – President Wagner

President Wagner invited Faculty Council members to think out loud about the 'value' of Emory and about the values that Emory encourages and expects in its faculty. While the strategic plan can enhance Emory's value in concrete or measurable ways, Pres. Wagner said, some of the most enduring signs of university excellence resist quantification. These 'intangibles' must be identified and encouraged if the university wants to achieve its long-term vision and goals.

Pres. Wagner walked Council members through a confidential working draft of a possible Emory 'Credo' – a statement of Emory's beliefs and convictions – and then asked them to address the following question: what is the value of a scholarly environment for faculty at Emory?

The ensuing conversation touched on matters of perennial concern to many faculty: titles and incentives for ongoing achievement; work-life-family balance; costs of living for new faculty; the challenge of teaching students who see their education as a purchase; the stresses and benefits of peer reviews; and the challenges of 'giving back' while also trying to stay ahead in the professional arena.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacia M. Brown
Assistant, Faculty Council

