

Council Concerns

NEWS AND ISSUES FROM THE EMORY UNIVERSITY FACULTY COUNCIL

April 2014

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Council Concerns Blog

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Faculty Dining Room Future Discussed

At its April 15 meeting, Dave Fuhman, senior director of food services administration, reported to the Council on plans to convert the Faculty Dining Room in the Dobbs University Center over the summer into a “campus convenience store.” The dining room currently serves “a small group of repeat customers of about 40 to 45 folks,” Fuhman said. “It does not provide a great service to the wider community.” He added that the Faculty Dining Room operates at a loss of more than \$100,000 per year, a loss that is subsidized by student meal plans. “We have seen a decline in the quality and service in our student meal plan program at the DUC in part because of this and some other subsidies we’ve had to finance over the years,” Fuhman said. He cited several factors that have come together to instigate this change, including recommendations from the Committee on Class and Labor to eliminate exclusive spaces on campus; an expressed student desire for more informal interaction with faculty; student feedback requesting more dining variety on campus during evenings and weekends; the need to eliminate the financial loss; and the opportunity to test a new retail option as a new student center is being designed. The new store will provide high quality deli sandwiches as well as some speciality products, such as gluten-free, halal, and kosher foods.

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Council Chair Reflects on Year’s Work

Outgoing Faculty Council chair Deb Houry took several minutes of the final meeting of 2013-14 to review the Council’s work throughout the year. Among the highlights:

- In early fall, the Council conducted a faculty governance survey based on the AAUP “Indicators of Sound Governance” instrument.
- The Faculty Handbook was thoroughly reviewed and revised with an approval vote from the Council in September.

- In January, following a review of the conflict of commitment policy outlined in the Emory Faculty Handbook, the Council voted to revise the policy.
- The Council also reviewed and approved an update to its own bylaws, as well as accepting a proposal from the School of Nursing to change their representation to the Council to allow any member of the faculty (and not only a tenured faculty member) serve as a representative.

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Campuswide Faculty Grievance & Hearing Processes Considered

James Hughes, chair of the Faculty Hearing Committee, reported on his review of grievance processes across the university, from school-based processes and policies to the purview of the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. While a 2012 committee recommended the appointment of a university ombudsperson to mediate grievances that “fall through the cracks,” Hughes concluded that the mechanisms on campus relating specifically to termination, suspension, or transfer of employment are “fairly robust.” The problem, he added, is the challenge of locating this information: “We haven’t done a good job of letting folks know about school-level grievance policies,” as well as existing resources to manage minor conflicts. The Faculty Council website offers a list of appointment, tenure, and promotion appeals and other grievance mechanisms at the school level, though the list may not be complete.

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