

**Faculty Executive Committee  
(Elected by the Faculty at Large)  
Annual Report to the Faculty Council for Calendar Year 2011  
Submitted by Chair Jan Boxill  
December 9, 2011**

*Elected Members, 2011-12 Committee*

- Steven Bachenheimer (Microbiology, '14)
- Gregory Copenhaver (Biology, '14)
- Jean DeSaix (Biology, '13)
- Jo Anne Earp (Health Behavior and Health Education, '13)
- Michael Gerhardt (Law, '13)
- Suzanne Gullledge (Education, '12)
- Kevin Guskiewicz (Exercise and Sports Science '12)
- Anselmo Lastra (Computer Science, '12; completing term of Bonnie Yankaskas)
- Laurie Maffly-Kipp (Religious Studies, '12; on leave, Fall 2011)
- Timothy McMillan (African and Afro-American Studies, '14)
- Leslie Parise (Biochemistry, '14)
- Shielda Rodgers (Nursing, '13)
- Luke Swindler (University Libraries; replacing Maffly-Kipp for Fall 2011 only)

*Ex Officio Members:*

- Jan Boxill (Chair of the Faculty, 2011-14)
- Joseph Ferrell (Secretary of the Faculty)

*Members who completed their service and/or resigned at the end of the 2010-11 academic year:*

- Jane Brown (Journalism and Mass Communication, '11)
- McKay Coble (Chair of the Faculty 2009-11, Ex officio & Committee Chair)
- Peggye Dilworth-Anderson (Public Health, '11)
- David Gerber (Surgery, '11)
- Carol Tobin (Academic Affairs Libraries, '11)
- Bonnie Yankaskas (Radiology, '12 – resigned spring 2011)

*Charge:*

The FEC is charged in the *Faculty Code* to: (1) exercise the consultative powers delegated to the Faculty Council; (2) exercise the legislative powers of the Council when prompt action is required; (3) serve as an advisory committee to the Chair of the Faculty; (4) represent the Faculty Council and General Faculty in advising the University administration with respect to issues that the Committee deems important to the University's mission; (5) work with various officers and groups within the University toward the realization of goals set in actions of the Council; (6) report to the Council on the status of implementation of resolutions of the Council; and (7) serve as members of the Faculty Council.

*Meetings:*

Chaired this year by faculty chairs McKay Coble (January-June) and Jan Boxill (July-December), the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) met once or twice monthly (for a total of thirteen meetings) throughout the year. Provost Bruce Carney attended approximately every other meeting, and other administrators, faculty members, and chairs of various faculty committees joined the FEC as appropriate. The FEC also met periodically with chancellor Thorp to discuss topics of importance.

*Activities This Past Year:*

The Faculty Executive Committee continued this year to play several key roles: to serve as a forum for soliciting diverse faculty viewpoints and input on pressing university-wide issues, proposed policy changes, initiatives, and projects; to serve as an advisory body to the Chair of the Faculty, Provost, and Chancellor; and to act in place of Faculty Council on issues where timely action is needed. In addition, this year FEC met twice with the Faculty Council Agenda Committee to enhance connection and synergy between the two committees and to work together to consider innovative strategies for facilitating substantive Faculty Council conversations and deliberation about matters of concern.

In August, the committee also held a joint meeting with Chancellor Thorp and the Chancellor's Advisory Committee to discuss the firing of former football coach Butch Davis on July 27. Chair of the Faculty Boxill and Chancellor's Advisory Committee Chair Prof. Jim Ketch (Music) issued a public statement of support for Chancellor Thorp's decision to dismiss Davis.

Other prominent issues in FEC discussions in 2011 included the state and university budget crisis, the technological changes that continue to sweep the campus (including the transition from Blackboard to Sakai and changes in the IT and communications funding model, as well as related security and privacy issues), and a renewed interest in the structure and function of the university's honor system (a study of which was already underway before the summer's revelations about cheating among football players). Discussion of the honor system focused on reappointment of the dormant Faculty Honor System Advisory Committee and Faculty Hearings Board Panel, review of the report on the honor system from the Educational Policy Committee, consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of plagiarism detection software, and appointment of Chair of the Faculty Jan Boxill's new honor system task force (Fall 2011).

The FEC also discussed the following additional issues in this year's meetings:

- The new "Master Lecturer" tier for fixed-term faculty.
- Plans for the spring 2011 faculty elections.
- Intellectual property and copyright issues related to educational materials and dissertations.
- Reconstituting the Faculty Copyright Committee.
- Reconstituting the Faculty Information Technology Advisory Committee.
- The new criminal convictions reporting policy.
- Proposal from the Educational Policy Committee for contextual grade reporting on transcripts (later approved by Faculty Council).

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- Budget cuts to campus centers and institutes.
  - Search for new athletics director (filled by Lawrence “Bubba” Cunningham).
  - Other issues related to the NCAA violations uncovered in the football program.
  - Rights and privileges granted to emeritus faculty.
  - Classroom design and safety during emergencies.
  - Campus-wide water theme proposal.
  - Prospects for raising tuition for students.
  - Faculty Council September retreat.
  - Academic support for student-athletes.
  - Faculty Assembly discussions of how to articulate the value of higher education.
  - Faculty tenure and promotion report follow-up.
  - Issues with textbook ordering and purchasing; planning for possible 2012 Faculty Council panel on this topic.
  - Planning for fall 2011 faculty athletics forum with Prof. Lissa Broome, A.D. Dick Baddour, and Prof. Steve Reznick.
  - Vice Provost for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs search.
  - Penn-State football sexual abuse scandal and cover-up.