

Minutes of the ASEF-PSOM Executive Council Meeting
John Morgan Wood Room
October 27, 2015

Present: Stanley Baum, Peter Bloch, Howard Goldfine, Fred Henretig, Susan Heyner, Virginia LiVolsi, Anna Meadows, Jeanne Myers, Victoria Mulhern (FAPD), Kayvon Nikoo (FAPD), Yvonne Paterson, Reed Pyeritz (Faculty Senate Chair – ASEF invited guest), Brian Salzberg, Jim Saunders, Bill Schwartz, Marvin Steinberg, Jamie Wheeler, Peter Wilding

Absent: Sandra Kramer, Joel Greenberg, Rob MacGregor (ASEF/ PASEF) Anita Summers (PASEF), Donald Young

The meeting was called to order by Myers at 12:05. Minutes were accepted and Myers relayed an E-comment from Summers that there was a PASEF steering committee (Summer, Nagel, Shaman) objection to the comment in the ASEF Sept. minutes regarding PASEF's participation in the 2014 and this year's Emeritus Program/Reception.

Myers then introduced the ASEF meeting guest, Dr. Reed Pyeritz, Chair of the University Faculty Senate (standing faculty). He will also extend Greetings to the new emeriti and attendants at the Emeritus function on November 4th.

Invited Guest: Reed E. Pyeritz, MD, PhD

Dr. Pyeritz presented a summary of the Faculty Senate activities as follows.

There are several important Senate Committees:

1. Academic Freedom and Responsibility: parenthetically he noted that a talk "Academic Freedom Now" is being presented in Van Pelt at 3 :00 pm.

2. Economic Status of Faculty: this committee reviews salaries and gender equality and compares these with 15 peer institutions. A final report is in process of preparation and will be published at the beginning of next year in the Almanac. Graphs showing faculty salaries versus administration salaries will also be included. Other activities of this committee include Retirement benefits, FIAP, tuition benefits for offspring and sabbatical leave entitlements. The Dean was asked for data on salaries of tenured faculty in Clinical departments, but declined to provide information.

3. Faculty Diversity and Equity: the office of the Ombudsman is largely ineffective because of a lack of confidentiality. The committee is proposing a new position, that of Faculty Advocate, which will provide informal counseling and advice for academic issues that might not rise to the level of a formal action and

ensure confidentiality. A faculty climate survey was initiated in 2011, but the results were incomplete. Another survey will be initiated.

4. Committee on Faculty and Administration: there is disharmony of conflict of interest between faculty and administration and several discrepancies between schools. Last year the University patent policy was revised and the Committee will monitor the impact of the changes going forward.

5. The University Research Fund: this disburses significant amounts of money annually, but there is little or no feedback as to its impact. Many biomedical investigators use it to provide 'bridge' funding to hopefully lead to NIH funding, but there is no requirement for a terminal report.

Faculty and Academic Mission: new technologies for learning are being developed rapidly, as well as MOOCs. There is little oversight of these developments. There has been a great expansion of non-standing faculty to the extent that they will soon surpass the standing faculty, and the administration has not yet addressed an overall strategy for faculty expansion.

Students and Educational Policy: there have been improvements to enable students to have better access to psychological services. In addition, faculty in undergraduate schools will have a designated 'Faculty Ambassador' to help them detect when a student is potentially in trouble and to recommend options for evaluation. Goldfine commented that he had been invited to serve on this committee, but that Emeriti were not permitted. Salzberg commented that faculty attitudes towards the administration were not raised. Steinberg asked about the number of clinical faculty in the tenure track who actually achieve tenure. Pyeritz thought it is less than one third who actually achieve tenure. Pyeritz also chairs the Steering Committee for University Council, which is comprised of faculty, staff and students. He mentioned that there is a Campaign for Community, which is sponsoring a series of events to show commitment to the Penn community at large.

Agenda: Pyeritz would like to empower the non-standing faculty to have more influence in the University. Where is the University going with so many non-standing faculty? Baum asked what is the situation in peer institutions? Pyeritz gave an example of the development of a purely on-line Master's program, which is happening without the involvement of standing faculty. Discussion ensued regarding the value of an on-line versus traditional Masters; e.g., an executive MBA versus a regular MBA; Paterson commented that the Nursing School is moving towards a Doctorate in Nursing Care, but that this might also be an on-line program.

Discussion: Myers asked Pyeritz if he had any ideas for programs and events ASEF could do differently; he did not have any suggestions for changes. Pyeritz stated that there should be better representation of Emeriti at a higher level.

Discussion ensued over the role that Emeriti could play; and Salzberg pointed out that retired research faculty are not eligible to become emeritus; and even their email accounts are stopped. Wilding suggested that ASEF should advocate for Associated Faculty.

President's Report: Myers reported that the response of the PSOM honorees to the Emeritus Program on November 4th has been very good; 11 of 20 new emeriti have accepted the invitation and the 9 others could not attend because of new academic positions or medical reasons. Many have responded with personal comments, regardless of their attendance status. The newly printed Emeritus Program showing the agenda and names of all 45 honorees (25 non-med) was circulated for council's inspection.

She reminded members that the ASEF Holiday reception in BRB 14th floor lounge will take place on December 15th after the 2:30 meeting in BRB 1412.

Following the council discussion in September, Myers invited Jonathan A. Epstein, M.D. to meet with council in January or February. He tentatively has scheduled time to attend our February 23rd. meeting. She also invited him to the Nov. 4th Emeritus event but was told he has another commitment.

ASEF-PSOM Banner: Heyner unveiled the ASEF-PSOM banner, which she had made by the Copy Center; it was enthusiastically received by council. [Goldfine had previously designed the central ASEF-PSOM logo.] The banner will be first displayed at Sweet Alumni House for the Nov. 4th Emeritus Celebration.

Emeriti Service in Departments: Baum spoke about the report he had generated on the departmental chair response for Emeriti service. It had been sent to council with the Oct. meeting announcement. Discussion ensued as to how to get Emeriti in touch with departments. Meadows commented that Emeriti have to initiate action and Saunders agreed. Myers said that new Chairs have to be updated; Wheeler commented that Chairs may need to have malpractice coverage. It was agreed that some pictures of several senior and emeritus med faculty should be taken and used to highlight the report.

April Spring Speaker: Wheeler, Henretig and MacGregor are the committee for the Spring Speaker. Other members of council can send them ideas also. The primary speaker decision will be seriously discussed at the November meeting to arrive at a consensus together with several alternates.

Luncheon Seminar Series: Wilding stated that Dr. Charles Nelson gave an excellent talk on Hip and Knee replacement to a very attentive crowd of over 50 people on October 13th. On November 10th, Dr. Edward Morrisey, invited by Goldfine, will talk on Regenerative Medicine, and on December 3rd, Dr. David Casarett (invited by Wilding) will discuss the uses of medical marijuana.

Healthy Aging Seminar: Paterson will invite Dr. Nalaka Gooneratne for the 2016 speaker (likely in March); his research area is the nature of sleep disorders in the elderly. Her preference for a seminar room is on the BRB 200 level or else 1412 used for the 2015 March talk. ASEF will provide a buffet lunch like last year.

Special Events: Bloch said that the King Midas exhibit at the University Museum would be scheduled for the last week in April. Discussion ensued regarding April being a busy month for both ASEF and PASEF and reserved for the Spring Programs; it was agreed that a winter date was the best time for an event as had been the plan for 2015 when it was held in February. Bloch said he would look and see when it could be rescheduled.

Past President's Committee: Steinberg will save his report for the November meeting in the interest of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Heyner, Ph.D.
Secretary Treasurer