

NFC Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2019

Present:

Rosa Oppenheim
Joseph Markert
April Benasich
John Kettle III
Mary Rizzo
Jane Gilman
Ashaki Rouff
Fran Bartkowski
Beryl Satter
Haesum Kim
Brandon Paradise
Michael Barnett
Miklos Vasarhelyi
Alexander Gates

Piotr Piotrowiak

Ashwani Monga

Alex Gates

- The Presidential Search Committee turned down the idea of including representation from the Faculty Councils on the presidential search committee.
- Asked for volunteers for the evaluation of Chancellor Cantor. So far, we have two volunteers from the NFC. We need four.
- RU-N Dean's Search update: the ad has been placed. Deadline for applications has passed (it was late October). They hope to appoint someone by April, for a start date of July 1, 2019.

Monga:

- There's a dean search for school of criminal justice as well.

Gates:

- People have agreed to report to their faculties on information we get at NFC. Gates represents SAS-N and he will report at the next SAS-N faculty meetings. Gates asks that each of the others representing different schools get on their faculty meeting agendas so they can report on what's going on in the NFC.
- Gates reached out to Newark Staff Council (NSC). Despite several attempts at contacting them, he has heard nothing back.
- Next time, we'll have someone from Foundation Office tell us how they can help us make ideas happen.

Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Collaborations Piotr Piotrowiak:

-They work on the Big Ideas initiative.

-Brian Murphy of Honors College organized a Research Week for undergrads. Their office covered it financially.

-They work with Rutgers Global.

-They are happy to help faculty approach Rutgers Global to get funding for collaborative work (with other universities). Rutgers Global concerns Rutgers programs in China or elsewhere – or smaller programs where a faculty member does work abroad.

-ORSP's Staff Members: Letitia Dean is now assistant director for RU-N and RBHS ORSP. They got Tim Kirby back as Research Contract and Grant Specialist (plus two others with same title – Patricia Bender and Reuel Mebuin). They are redistributing the work load between the three of them. We have a higher percentage of grant specialists per faculty than most – because our small departments can't support a dedicated grant specialist within each department. They guide us through drafting proposals.

-Joe Broderick, Senior Grant Facilitator; he will manage and guide group proposals and larger scale projects.

-Patricia Bender works mostly with humanities. Tim Kirby with the sciences.

-Lisa Condobery does administration and can help with logistics of smaller events (say less than a few hundred).

-We saw slides showing external funding for RU-N, 2007-2018. Some up and downs but mostly funding is moving up. Most of the funding is with Arts and Sciences; lately the RBS has gotten more grants.

-2019: Newark is getting a good percentage of funding given size of faculty. We have a number of people getting smaller grants (not a few superstars getting a few large grants). We get a good number of federal grants. However, we get much less from State of New Jersey – much more goes to NB. Sometimes this is a matter of how the grant is structured; we don't get credit even if our faculty participates.

-RN also does not get its share of corporate foundation money. We are way behind NB. We should be doing better. We need closer relationships with local foundations.

-Internal awards: we do very well. We do better than other campuses per capita by a long shot.

-Developing Research Infrastructure: there is the NSF MRI (Major Research Instrumentation) Grant Proposals (we've done well with this grant program).

There is RUBIC 2019 NSF (brain imaging facility); they got a \$1.5 million grant (Steve Hanson, PI /neuroscience and psychology) to get the state-of-the-art brain scanners.

-2020 NSF MRI Proposals in Preparation: a Laser Control Scanning Microscope (Biology); X-Ray Diffractometer (Chemistry). Cost share provided by SASN and Chancellor's Office.

Question re: Department of Education Funds: Title III, Title V, a STEM grants, GANS (Graduate Assistance in Areas of Need): these are education-type grants and should be written by a social scientist. Can your office collect people to apply for such grants? Can we get the word out about this? Many community colleges are getting these big grants and we aren't. They come up very quickly – and there's no real cycle for them that we can predict. NJCU got a big grant; they did hire a grant writer. Maybe hire a grant writer for our Dept. of Urban Education?

A: Yes, we are trying. Also grants for Spanish-serving institutions that we should be able to get. We're pushing to find PIs who can write such proposals. Our Dept. of Urban Education has been successful in getting these grants. John Gunkel and Piotrowiak have been sending out feelers for people to write such grants.

-Q: Could Global Urban Studies grad students can be mentored in such grants?

-Piotrowiak: Maybe P3 can work on this?

-Q: They are a huge amount of work and hard for small departments to pull off.

-Q: This is something to consider when making hires.

-Piotrowiak: it's not so easy to handle this when hiring since we are already stretching our hires. We have to have enough people at the right stage of their career, since it's so time intensive. We will look into involving P3. We might negotiate grants for a grant writer if we already see that there's a strong team in place.

Gates:

-Let your faculty know about the support available from the Research Office. Let them know about some of the Dept. of Education grants, which are low-hanging fruit.

Piotrowiak:

-Joe Broderick knows about the grants that are available. Feel free to ask him.

Gates:

-Look over Guidelines for Evaluating Publicly Engaged Scholarship.

Q:

-Can we do something to cut down bureaucracy/ red tape? Whether for hires, or for submitting grants? A while ago we hired some firm to simplify – instead, they made it more complicated. Why do we need so many signatures before a grant is even approved? Some of these grants end up taking months or years.

Q:

-A junior professor said that his students don't do the reading. The reason is that most are taking too many credits. We incentivize this. Why? At what cost?

Gates:

We can get Gunkel in to talk about this.

Q:

-An idea for getting Faculty Senate to meet in Newark, or to use technology so Newark people can participate remotely, pushed in previous years: what happened? Resolution to request that they meet here more often was "endorsed," but nothing has happened since.

-Can we ask new president of University Senate be more open to input from different campuses? Senate is advisory to the President – and it is how heavily NB-centric.

-Camden people are always at University Senate meetings; but Newark rarely attends.

-Senate: we are talking about changing definition of “violence” (bullying? Physical violence?)
Also, can we define appropriate relationships between faculty, staff and students? Faculty recognition gets pay; staff gets a gift. Is this discriminatory? If so, what do we do about it?

Monga:

-We have a clear sexual harassment/ relationship guideline. No relationships with undergrads. No if you are in any relationship with a grad student under your control. You need to inform colleagues if you’re in relationship to be sure you’re not able to abuse your power.
-There is a pathway for promotion for staff, just as for faculty. You can’t just give gifts.

Piotrowiak;

-Union rules made us unable to further reward a staff in any way other than gifts.

Monga:

-The same rules work for faculty; there are limits on how they can be rewarded.

Minutes by Beryl Satter