

Newark Faculty Council (NFC) Annual Chair's Report

Jane Gilman, 2017-18 Chair

Abstract

The NFC by-laws (<http://nfc.newark.rutgers.edu/bylaws.html>) require an annual report from the NFC Chair. Here is the report for 2017-18.

Introduction

The NFC met six times during the academic year. The Minutes of these meetings are on the NFC web-site. The main issues that the Council dealt with are (1) the report of the ad hoc Rutgers-wide teaching evaluation committee, (2) relations with the University senate, (3) web-site re-establishment, (4) background checks, (5) NFC and University Senate election procedures and (6) miscellaneous items. Except for (1) these are issues are likely to continue into the 2018-19 AY.

1 Response to the Ad Hoc Rutgers University-wide Teaching Evaluation committee

The NFC was asked by Barbara Lee, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, to respond to the report on teaching evaluations issued by the Ad Hoc Rutgers University-wide Teaching Evaluation committee. This prompted very interesting discussions that took place over several meetings. Attached below is a copy of the NFC response It can also be found on the NFC web-site.

2 Rutgers University Senate

Our consideration of interaction with the University Senate consisted of two phases, the second brought upon as a result of the first.

Reporting to the University Senate: The NFC is not a subsidiary of the University Senate. Our bylaws state "The Council will complement, rather than supplant, the University Senate, the college faculties, and

the university administrative officers.” However the Senate through its representatives indicated that it feels the NFC has been remiss in not reporting its activities at each Senate meeting. The Senate allots time for such a report at the end of each Senate meeting. It appears that the NFC was unaware that a report was expected and the Senate had not contacted the NFC about this in the last fourteen years when no known reports have been give.

The NFC will share information about its activities when relevant to the Senate.

The above consideration lead the NFC to the following motion

NFC Motion and Response: NFC unanimous motion The following motion was passed unanimously by the Newark Faculty Council on April 9th.

In light of the restructuring of Rutgers in recent years and the greater administrative independence of the Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses from each other and in light of recent advances in technology, the Newark Faculty Council formally requests that the University Senate hold more than one meeting per academic year in Newark and arrange for Newark senators to participate in Council and Committee meeting via Skype or some other electronic means.

A full description of the Senate response to the motion and the NFC subsequent further response is attached.

This issue is expected to continue to be on the NFC agenda into the 2018-19 year.

3 Web-site up-date and maintenance issues

Because of staff changes in the Chancellor’s office, the NFC web-site was not maintained for several years. Previous support staff maintained the web-site but with retirements and reorganization, this is no longer a duty of the NFC support staff. This year the web-site was revived. There is still unfinished work.

4 Background Checks

Rutgers Vice President Vivian Fernandez gave a presentation to the Council on Background Checks and some revised procedures that the administration is implementing. The NFC discussed this at length (see the minutes of the April 9, 2018 meeting) and expects some further up-dates from the administration in the future.

5 Contingent Faculty Elections for the NFC and Senate representation

The rules for election of NFC contingent faculty have proved to be unwieldy. Laszlo Zaborsky, the 2016-17 NFC Chair, used an ad hoc method for that years' election and this method was followed in 2017-18. However, Professor Zaborsky has been preparing a report on the situation and will make a suggestion to the NFC in 2018-19. Enacting suggestions in his report will require revisiting and amending the NFC bylaws. There are other issues that might also be addressed when the bylaws are revisited such as the allocation of seats and the composition of the NFC. Also the allocation of University Senate seats might be discussed.

6 Miscellaneous

One constituent has raised a question about asbestos and the safety of RN buildings. This should be discussed in 2018-19.

7 Lastly: To all who are rotating off the NFC

Thank you for your service!