

**Newark Faculty Council
Minutes
Provost's Conference Room
December 15, 1997 -11:30 a.m.**

In attendance: Jane Gilman, John Graham, Ron Hart, Carol Heffernan, Barry Komisaruk, Asela Laguna-Diaz, Anne Magro, John Payne, Charles Russell, Diana Sclar, Mary Ann Scoloveno, Miklos Vasarhelyi, Norman Samuels, Harvey Feder, Don McCabe, Norman Schnayer, Gene Vincenti, Janice Friedland.

I. Provost's Report

Dr. Samuels reported on the following matters:

- An AAUP contract settlement has been reached, highlights of which are a 50/50 split between merit and across-the-board salary increases, and discontinuance of the automatic step system. Still outstanding is the PTL contract agreement.
- Dr. Samuels reported on the recent BoG meeting in New Brunswick, and also noted that a review of the university athletic program is in progress.
- A hearing of the Blue Ribbon Capacity Task Force of the Commission on Higher Education will be held on Thursday, December 18, in the Robeson Center Multipurpose Room. Dr. Samuels and other Newark staff will testify expressing concern for the recent CHE decision not to sanction state funding of programs to recruit high-achieving students to New Jersey schools. Discussion followed on the Task Force's study on consolidation of Newark research institutions.
- The provost met with the NFC budget committee last week and discussed the Reinvestment in Rutgers program which will provide a \$3.9 million one-time allocation for academic programs and \$2.5 million for academic facilities. Newark campus will receive about \$580,000 for academic programs and \$500,000 for facilities. These funds will not be used for hiring purposes, but for equipment purchase and classroom renovations.
- The Capital Campaign, Dr. Samuels noted, is progressing and is remaining faithful to the university strategic plan.

II Chair's Report

Asela Laguna-Diaz reported on the recent meeting of the President's Advisory Council with Dr. Lawrence. One of the topics discussed at the meeting was that of off-site programs such as the proposed campus at Brookdale Community College.

Dr. Laguna-Diaz also reported that the FAS-N Dean's Search Committee is encouraging faculty to suggest names of potential candidates or colleagues who might recommend candidates.

She shared with the council an anonymous letter received by the search committee.

Asela reported on new multi-cultural acquisitions at the Dana Library. She also shared the news that Dr. Liz Mitchell is submitting course proposals for the Newark Honors College.

For next semester, Dr. Laguna-Diaz proposes that the NFC consider:

- drafting a letter to President Lawrence requesting an increase in Presidential Scholars on the Newark Campus, and connecting this to the Middlestates Report. Dr. Samuels indicated that he will also follow this request in a letter to the President.

- to devote one or two meetings to discussion of the Middlestates report and the implementation of suggestions made therein.

- to address the issue of writing skills, whether to enforce stricter writing requirements in subjects other than English, and how to help faculty become more involved in this process.

- to open dialogue on undergraduate education and writing skills and the relationship with graduate level services. David Hosford could be invited to talk in this regard.

- to invite President Lawrence to a meeting next semester.

III Presentation on University Heights Science Park

Mr. Dennis Lower, Science Park Director, gave a slide presentation to the group on the Science Park. Four CHEN academic institutions have collaborated on the project. (RU-N, Essex College, UMDNJ, NJIT). PSE & G and Prudential are two of the industrial organizations represented on the board of directors, in addition to community groups. One recent accomplishment is that a major NYC research firm, the Public Health Research Institute of New York City (PHRI) will be moving to Science Park. The State of New Jersey will provide major funding and it is expected that the pharmaceutical industry will also come on board. The park will also serve as an incubator for fledgling businesses which want to be adjacent to knowledge-based resources. A new Science High School will also be part of this project. Mr. Lower expressed the hope that Newark can reclaim its identity as a "technopolis."

Responding to a question, Mr. Lower noted that one of the building pads in the park is devoted to information and communication structures. It was suggested he speak further with Professor Vasarhelyi on possible technical cooperation with Rutgers-Newark and NJIT faculty..

It was also suggested that this information be made available to the visiting Middlestates review team.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Newark Faculty Council is on Monday, February 9, 1997.

