

**Newark Faculty Council**  
**Minutes**  
**April 13, 1998 - Provost's Conference Room**

**In attendance:** Anne-Marie Cantwell, John Graham, Carol Heffernan, Marc Holzer, Judy Jeng, Barry Komisaruk, Asela Laguna-Diaz, Nancy Redeker, Charles Russell, Mary Ann Scoloveno, Barbara Stern, Ted Sztatowski, Miklos Vasarhelyi, Norman Samuels, Harvey Feder, Don McCabe, Ray Smith.

**I. Chair's Report**

Asela Laguna-Diaz announced the names of those members whose terms will expire at the end of June. Notices have been sent to the deans asking for names of new members.

**II Provost's Report**

Provost Norman Samuels reported on the following matters:

Deans Searches - Search committees for deans of SCJ and of the FASN have selected finalists who are being interviewed this month. One of the three FASN dean finalists has withdrawn his candidacy. The FoM dean search committee has met and placed advertisements. Ted Hollander is the Chair of that committee. An executive search firm, which has done many business dean searches, has also been hired to supply additional candidates.

Middle States - Dr. Samuels thanked the Council members for their help. He reported that the oral summary of the visiting team's overall findings indicated they were very positively impressed with the campus. They found a unified, sense of the campus and mission, and were particularly impressed with the extent of student satisfaction. The written report is due in a week or two.

Dr. Samuels pointed out that the self-study required by this review was a valuable exercise for the campus, permitting a reaffirmation of Newark's mission and what is distinctive about this campus. Since the university chose a special topics format, certain specific categories may not have been examined. Other concerns for the campus which were highlighted during the review, were: Service to our students - are we doing enough for them?; Have we found our niche on quality?; Can we provide more interdisciplinary, inter-college work?; What is the quality of our support services?

Discussion followed on the review team's perception of the Newark Campus as a satellite or branch campus. Dr. Samuels indicated he emphasized to the review team that this was *not* the case, noting that the university as a whole is an AAU accredited university. However, he noted, we are separately rated as a Carnegie institution, and other reporting media rate the university and its divisions in a variety of ways, so it is confusing at times.

A discussion of participants' reactions to the visit will be conducted at the next meeting.

**III State Budget Update**

Nancy Winterbauer, VP for University Budgeting, presented a careful and detailed report on the revisions in the state contributions to the university budget. On the surface, she noted, the increases promised by the state seem substantial. However, the 2.5% increase in support, or approximately \$9.9 million, will not cover increases in costs such as newly negotiated salary and fringe benefit increases for staff. The new policies the State has proposed can be serious problems:

- Employee fringe benefits, currently paid directly by the State, will now be included in the base budget as a fixed amount ( ~ \$100 million). The concern is that this fixed allotment may be reduced in the future or that new funds will not be provided to meet increased benefit costs. The university is discussing this policy with legislators along with other state institutions.

- The State would like to link funding to specific performance criteria. However, the criteria proposed are not reasonable or logical.

One encouraging aspect of the State's budget proposal is an increase in student state aid and merit based programs. Dr. Winterbauer also noted that one positive outcome of the Middle States visit was that the review team supported the university's perspective on budget issues and the team noted how well the university functioned with so little discretionary money.

Dr. Winterbauer distributed a handout summarizing the budget proposals, including a list of legislative leaders to whom faculty and staff may address correspondence. Hearings on the state budget will be on April 27 and in May. Positive feedback has been received from many legislators, so there is a strong possibility that the proposals will be mitigated or reversed. It will be important for all state colleges and universities to present a united front on these issues. The elimination of the State Department of Higher Education made it more necessary for all state institutions to work closely together.

Provost Samuels cited Dr. Winterbauer for her positive impact on the university, especially in her dealings with the Treasury Department and other State offices.

Council members expressed to Dr. Winterbauer an interest in having a specified number of OSRP (Outstanding Scholars Recruitment Program) scholarships designated for the Newark campus, citing the positive impact that the assignment of James Dickson Carr scholarships has had here. Dr. Winterbauer suggested that the Council send any proposals to her directly so that she may review and discuss them before they are directed to the President, and so that she may assist in advocating changes.

Discussion also followed on the need for more personalized communication with high achieving high school students and a revision of the awards process for incoming freshmen.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. **The next meeting will be Mon., May 11<sup>th</sup>. Attached are sample letters to to legislators on the budget issue sent by Dr. Winterbauer.**