

**Newark Faculty Council**  
**Meeting of Monday, May 12, 2003**  
**CLJ - Provost Conference Room - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Edward Boylan, Brian Ferguson, Jonathan Hyman, Asela Laguna-Diaz, Michael Long, John Randall, Wen-Hua Ren, Diana Sclar, Barbara Stern, Adela Yarcheski, Myroslava Znayenko; Steven Diner; Marcia Brown, Heidi Szymanski, Gene Vincenti; Janice Friedland

- I. Chair's Report** - John Randall reported on the following matters:
- President's Faculty Advisory Committee - The President responded to concerns about the budget and indicated a commitment to increasing transparency. Also discussed was faculty involvement in establishing admissions standards.
- II. Provost's Report** - Dr. Diner reported on several issues:
- Thank you to departing members.
  - **Devolution** - Many offices and responsibilities will now report directly to the Newark Campus. Provosts in Newark and Camden will have signatory authority for various purchasing and approval processes.
  - **Restructuring** - Committees are meeting to plan for a potential merger. Dr. Diner is co-chair of the Northern University committee. Barbara Stern is also a member of that group. A sub-committee on Academic Issues has met recently to make a first draft on organizing academic matters. All plans are contingent on acceptance of the plan by the Legislature. The governor will most likely submit it after the elections in November.
  - **SARS** - University areas are debating this important issue to determine what action may be necessary for summer session and the general screening of students.
  - **Commencement** - Governor McGreevey is to speak at the main ceremony, Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Norman Samuels will be the recipient of the Provost's Award, usually awarded in years when there is no Honorary Degree recipient in Newark. Plans for inclement weather are in place and there will be no alternate dates.
  - **Budget** - The State budget situation is still not clear. President McCormick is making a strong case for the University and higher education in general. A tuition increase will probably be around 10%. Salary decisions will be made after collective bargaining negotiations are completed. It is possible that salary increases may be postponed so that this year's budget cuts will not have to be even larger. The Provosts offices have submitted broad plans for reductions and will soon translate these into more concrete figures.
- III. Devolution Resolution** - John Randall summarized the Faculty Council's deliberations on the creation of separate Promotion Review Committees for the three campuses. In general, faculty members felt that there is not sufficient constituency for tenure decisions in Newark. However, decisions on promotion to full professor may not be as controversial. Those in favor of separate PRC's thought that in the event of a merger, the campus would have acquired experience in making tenure decisions and would be able to set standards and lead the merged institution. In most other state university systems, it

was noted, the individual campuses make independent promotion and tenure decisions. Several council members felt that there is not enough of a consensus from the whole faculty body to draw any conclusions at this time. There was also concern expressed about the fact that the business school is on two campuses. Dr. Diner suggested that the new NFC Chair (Diana Sclar) draw up a more concrete proposal on this issue.

- IV. Budget Reductions** - Associate Provost Gene Vincenti and Assistant Provost Heidi Szymanski shared information of last year's budget cut and projections for next year. The campus will try to protect the academic programs in making cuts. Campus Safety will also receive continued support. Enrolment was discussed at length. The campus will try to keep enrolment at the current level, but some increases are likely. The legislature may view increased enrolment as evidence that the University is faring well despite State budget cuts.
- V. Other Business** - Diana Sclar urged council members/faculty to read the draft copyright policy which was recently circulated and to send her comments. She was on the committee which constructed the draft.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. **Have a wonderful summer!**