

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Monday, April 17, 2006
CLJ - Provost Conference Room – 11:30 a.m.
Minutes

In attendance: F. Bartkowski, J. Christian, M. Feighn, B. Ferguson, J. Hyman, R. Jones, N. Mahon, I. Watson, A. Sadovnik, D. Sclar, R. Stieglitz, M. Vasarehyli, S. Diner, M. Brown, G. Massenburg, C. Russell, I. Watson, L. Zaborszky, S. Diner, M. Ryan, A. Torres, G. Vincenti, J. Friedland

I. Chair's Report: John Graham briefly covered the following topics:

- Thank you to departing members: Brian Ferguson, Charles Russell, Laszlo Zaborszky, Noreen Mahon, Johnna Christian, Barbara Stern, Sharon Gifford, Diana Sclar, and John Graham, who will be replaced as chair by Alan Sadovnik, currently Vice-Chair.
- The Aids Memorial Quilt will be displayed in the Robeson Center April 17-19.
- An open forum on the proposed School of Public Affairs is being held today.
- Introduction of President McCormick and introductions of members.

II. President McCormick – discussion:

A. Update on Budget Cuts: Governor Corzine is faced with a budget gap of \$4-5 billion, which he did not cause. Higher education is receiving seriously large budget cuts since it has another revenue stream that other government units do not have, such as tuition, grants, endowments, etc. There will be three types of cuts:

- 1) FY06 current base budget will be cut 15% (\$33-34 million)
- 2) No funding for salary increases (equivalent of \$60 million – approx \$30 mill. faculty/staff increases and approx. \$30 mill. fringe benefits). Despite zero funding for the year ahead, the university still has to meet the fourth year of contract obligations.
- 3) Other areas affected include funding for out-of-state students, the Outstanding Scholar Award program, and subsidies for the summer program.

In all, Rutgers University will be faced with a shortfall (inflation also considered) of approximately \$114 million.

President McCormick will be asking university employees to write to legislators, to advocate aggressively for restoration of some of the cuts. Email or letters should focus on the current crisis without placing blame on the legislature. They should be positive and constructive. He also cautioned that although New Jersey traditionally does not fund higher education well in proportion to per capita income, it would not serve us well to use that as an argument in the current situation. Some optimism may be derived from the governor's recent statements that he will make reversing cuts to higher education a priority when funds do become available.

The University's top priorities, President McCormick said, are to retain fringe benefits, which the State has always funded, to restore a significant portion of the base budget, and to receive some help with other areas such as tuition.

B. All Funds Budgeting Status: The president noted that All Funds Budgeting , although not increasing the budget, allows deans to go from strategic planning to budget transparency. He also noted that New Brunswick and Camden are further along in the process than Newark, and he would like to see that rectified. He suggested that there seems to be a subtext in the questions posed by the NFC, that the Newark Campus is not fairly treated in budget allocation matters. Recognizing that this is a legitimate concern, he proposed a task force be established to conduct an investigation. The NFC task force would work with the Provost, Deans, and Vice Presidents P. Furmanski and N. Winterbauer to exhaustively examine the issue. Any and all data, numeric or policy-related, would be at their disposal. The task force would also examine the progress made by all three campuses in All Funds Budgeting.

C. Increasing Use of PTLs: NFC members commented on the difficulty of obtaining PTL statistics. This may be a factor of what questions were asked, how a PTL is defined, and also how statistics are currently reported. It would be useful to know what policies might reduce the number of PTLs and how they could be better combined with the use of Assistant Instructor lines. There is some concern that in a budget crisis Assistant Instructors would be replaced by PTLs. Provost Diner confirmed that some Assistant Instructor positions were not being renewed this year. President McCormick stated that campuses could differ on the number of PTLs employed depending on how they spend their instructional resources. A greater emphasis on graduate programs and expansion of doctoral programs has led to more reliance on PTLs for undergraduate courses on the Newark campus.

D. Effect of Reorganization of New Brunswick Undergraduate Education: The president stated that the reorganization effort in New Brunswick will not result in the reallocation of a single dollar from Newark or Camden. He described how complicated the structure of undergraduate education has been in New Brunswick, with many duplicative administrative layers, unlike Newark which has one College of Arts and Sciences. The new School of Arts and Sciences in New Brunswick will have its own faculty and students and exercise authority over all aspects of undergraduate education on all New Brunswick campuses. This will require some initial seed money, which will come from modest reserves already set aside, but the process should otherwise be cost neutral. No new funds will be allocated to the New Brunswick campus.

The president will try to spend more time on the Newark campus now that the time consuming preliminary planning process for the reorganization is over.

E. Plans for Long Term Growth: President McCormick explained that the Newark Campus is slated for more enrolment growth than New Brunswick. However, this cannot happen without resources from the State. Legislators are not very concerned about the “brain drain” in New Jersey. Provost Diner noted that, if the campus were completely built out, it could accommodate 15,000 students. Plans for the building at One Washington Park, to house the business school, would free up needed space in other buildings for classrooms and offices. Without additional faculty positions an enrolment increase is not feasible. The provost further noted that an advantage of All Funds Budgeting is that increased enrolment translates to increased revenue for the campus. At the department level, this distribution is based on head count.

Responding to a question about a possible merger with UMDNJ, the President commented that although bringing the health care sciences into the university system is a logical course of action, it is much easier to accomplish in New Brunswick than in Camden or Newark. Various factors make a merger between RU-N and UMDNJ more complicated. For one, University Hospital would have to be considered. Further, Dr. McCormick noted, Newark's political leadership is resistant to a merger, not wanting UMDNJ to be under the auspices of Rutgers' central administration in New Brunswick. For the process to work, Rutgers as an institution would have to be restructured. He noted he was not in favor of the three-university system that was previously proposed by the Vagelos Commission.

F. Devolution: The areas that devolved to the Newark campus so far are lower-tier services such as Admissions, the Registrar, Financial Aid, Student Health Services, and Psychological Services. Higher level services are more difficult to merge. Dr. Diner noted that giving authority to the Newark campus for these services has been enormously helpful, particularly in Admissions. One other area where devolution would be feasible is Continuing Education. The President said he would be open to other suggestions.

G. Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Faculty: Additional resources to recruit faculty who add to the diversity of a department or school, the President noted, have been made available through Dr. Furmanski's office. Newark has benefited from these funds with three new faculty hires so far this year, and several last year.

H. Marketing Campaign: President McCormick said he does not like the description of Rutgers as a "public ivy" which has been used in the media recently. He distributed a handout with an update of the Rutgers unified marketing campaign being developed by the communications firm, Lipman Hearne. Dr. McCormick suggested that the NFC invite Vice President Kim Manning-Lewis to a meeting next semester for a more detailed update. Budget cuts could also have an adverse effect on the campaign.

John Graham thanked the President for attending and for his thorough answers to the Council's questions. President McCormick thanked the NFC for inviting him and indicated he would like to visit again next semester. He restated the need for the NFC, Provost Diner, and VP Furmanski to put together a task force on budget issues. Alan Sadovnik will speak to Provost Diner soon to start the process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. This was the last meeting of the year. As soon as new members are selected for the coming semester, the election of Executive Cabinet officers will take place.

Have a Wonderful Summer!!