

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Wednesday, November 7, 2007
CLJ - Provost Conference Room – 2:30 p.m.
Minutes

In attendance: F. Bartkowski, L. Eller, G. Farney, S. Hall, J. Hyman, R. Jones, A. Languna, M. Long, M. Shiffrar, R. Snyder, B. Veysey, J. Xia, M. Vasarhelyi, S. Diner, M. Ryan, L. Schneemeyer, A. Torres, G. Vincenti, J. Friedland.

I. Provost's Report – Provost Diner was unable to be present.

II. Transportation Report – Marty Ryan introduced Joe Vocaturo, Manager of the R-N Parking Office, and Martin Robins and Pippa Woods of the Voorhees Transportation Center. Gene Vincenti gave some background information on campus parking, noting that the little land that is left for expansion is very expensive. The demand for parking is growing at a rate higher than the campus is able to accommodate. Negotiations are underway with the owners of a parking garage on Washington Street and Raymond Blvd. The Voorhees Transportation Center was asked to explore options for the campus. Their report will be posted on the NFC website and distributed to NFC members.

Joe Vocaturo noted that there is an excess of Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs) on campus. The Voorhees report recommends implementing a Transportation Demand Management system (TDM). Various focus groups on campus were questioned about their driving patterns. Recommended solutions include:

- Establish a R-N advisory committee
- Create a commuter club
- Adjust the parking fee structure
- Work with NJ Transit to develop a RJT/RN UPass program
- Hire someone to market the program
- Install lockers for students so they do not have to use their cars

Martin Robins explained that Newark is a unique transportation hub and noted that people are beginning to use mass transit more since the new arena opened. New Jersey transit is very receptive to forging a relationship with Rutgers-Newark, to showcase R-N as a mass transit-oriented university community, and to promote the area as being appealing and safe.

III. Discussion – Council members made some comments and suggestions:

- Virtual classes would reduce student numbers on campus. Gene Vincenti indicated that this is a matter the deans should be discussing, but noted that interest in distance learning, except for some areas such as College of Nursing, has been limited so far.
- The UPass should cover bus, trains and subways, and also PATH.
- Daily passes might be issued for those who only need SOVs part time.
- Marty Ryan noted that R-N is partnering with its neighbors to clean up, add lighting, and install additional security cameras on the Broad St. pathway.
- Police escorts – dispatchers are averaging a 4 minute response time.
- TDM will start with students, since the current faculty/staff contracts prohibit any changes to the parking fee structure.

- CHEN shuttle – better signage and a Conklin Hall bus stop are needed.
- Rutgers-NB has electronic monitors at bus stops announcing arrival time.
- Class schedules should be staggered.
- Bikes/Bike paths – more racks have been placed around campus.

Ways to involve faculty:

- More advertising – faculty to be more proactive in disseminating information.
- Promote the ‘green-ness’ of the plan.
- M. Ryan and J. Vocaturo – to attend chairs’ meetings/create accepting climate
- To poll faculty and get them involved.

IV. Diversity Committee meeting report: Asela Laguna reported on the December 2 meeting of the Provost’s Committee on Diversity and Cultural Enrichment , and made the following points:

- Diversity offices have been created on all three Rutgers campuses. Vice Provost, Lynn Schneemeyer and Assistant Provost, Gerald Massenburg will co-chair the Newark office. Professor Laguna will serve as Special Advisor to the Provost on Diversity and will chair the committee.
- The campus goals are to draw upon and celebrate our eleven year US News distinction as most diverse national university campus, and determine ways to keep R-N’s edge, particularly in the student community.
- Rutgers-NB is organizing a National Conference with Columbia University and the College Board. It is anticipated that R-N will also have a role.
- The committee will begin with the following tasks:
 - Improve the diversity website to reflect all diversity initiatives in all the schools.
 - The alumni website needs to reflect all multicultural groups.
 - The Office of Communications will add to the websites an historical narrative on the campus’ diversity since the 1990’s.
- Other suggestions from the Dec. 2 diversity committee meeting:
 - Explore the lack of diversity in faculty and staff - research best practices at other institutions in hiring and promoting at administrative levels.
 - Create a 3-credit course and/or seminars dealing with diversity.
 - Devise ways to encourage more tolerance
 - Engage the campus in finding solutions/suggestions
 - To compile a bibliography on diversity – one book was suggested: “Privilege and Diversity in the Classroom” – Wheaton College Professor Frinde Maher, co-author - study of three schools – Stanford (private), Michigan (big ‘10’) and Rutgers-Newark (public/state) – focus on seeking change in faculty hiring.
 - To consider how to incorporate the campus’ relationship with the city of Newark and surrounding community – per the campus mission.
 - Changes in curriculum – maximize the use of diversity in the classroom, to increase discussions on the issue without making students feel like they are representatives of their groups.
 - Need to improve overall climate.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. **The next NFC meeting is Monday, December 3, 2007, 11:30 am, Provost Conference Room, 5th floor, CLJ.**