

**Newark Faculty Council**  
**Meeting of Monday, October 4, 2010 – 11:30 am**  
**Chancellor's Conference Room**  
**Minutes**

**In attendance:** P. Axel-Lute, A. Chebel-D'Appollonia, G. Frenkel, A. Gilchrist, M. Johansen, F. Jordan, A. Laguna, W. Ren, J. Ruggiero, D. Sclar, G. Sodikoff, F. Sudit, T. Szatrowski, J. Tepper, I. Watson, M. Vasarhelyi, E. Velez; S. Diner; K. Dawkins, G. Massenburg, M. Tamasco, D. Hill, J. Friedland.

**I. Chair's Report** – After members were introduced, Chair, Miklos Vasarhelyi, noted that the NFC has been meeting for more than 15 years. He would like the group to be more involved in campus issues and suggested forming sub-committees on several topics of interest.

**II. Chancellor's Report** – Chancellor Diner reported on the following matters:

- **Budget:** Cuts were not as severe as were expected partly due to the raise in tuition and freeze on salary increases.
- **Enrollment:** Significantly up this fall – to 11,750.
- **Rankings:** Rutgers-Newark was ranked the most diverse national university campus for the 14<sup>th</sup> year, by US News and World Report. This year, US News has added a new category, “A+ Schools for B Students,” in which we are highly rated. The Washington Monthly, which rates schools based on contribution to the social good, placed Rutgers-Newark 18<sup>th</sup> in the country.
- **New Faculty** – This was an exceptional year which included new deans in SCJ, CoN and Law, and 52 new Newark faculty members. A reception for new faculty is scheduled for October 6.
- **Faculty Workshop on Diversity and Recruitment:** The October 28 workshop will focus on how to attract the best people to our institution. New faculty will be asked to comment on why they selected Rutgers-Newark, and deans will discuss recruitment strategy
- **Outcomes assessment** of student learning from diversity will be undertaken by Mark Winston.
- **Office on Community-based Learning:** Will be directed by Patricia Kettenring.
- **Housing projects:** Bids are being accepted from developers for 15 Washington Street (graduate student/ visiting faculty apartments), and for undergraduate housing behind 15 Washington St. (Essex Street/University Avenue), with retail business on the lower level.

A discussion followed on the deferred faculty contract pay raises and in particular on the new policy to limit university contribution to TIAA-CREF above \$141,000 in earnings. The university is looking to find another way to fund these contributions.

**III. Student Suicide Incident in New Brunswick:** Gerald Massenburg led a discussion on the recent tragedy on the New Brunswick campus, Tyler Clementi's suicide, which has received national attention. He talked about ways the campus is dealing with prevention, student health issues and support of LGBTQ students. He noted that all students receive detailed information

at orientation about support services on campus, and that the campus has a competent, attentive staff. Deans have received training on how to respond. Training sessions include discussion on violence, depression, and cyber-stalking, and related topics. At exam times, student services personnel visit students in the dorms, and check on their status. The DeStress Fest and pancake breakfasts are other effective programs. LGBTQ organizations on campus are very active and vocal. Law School groups and RU Pride (undergraduate) encourage dialogue and received strong student support. A forum is being organized for this evening, October 4.

The NFC members discussed the matter and made the following points:

- A Code of ethics and civility, or “honor code” should be signed by all students. Dr. Diner suggested the NFC send a resolution to the University Administration.
- Meanness in general needs to be addressed. This could be a topic for an NFC sub-committee.
- Faculty need to be trained on how to proceed with students having psychological issues and on how to encourage them to seek support. Gerald Massenburg suggested that faculty channel these questions through the deans. Chancellor Diner suggested that the counseling staff and Gerald Massenburg be invited to faculty groups within the schools.
- It was noted that RAs in student housing receive intensive training, and follow-up training, as they are usually the first contact for students with problems.
- **Additional Business:** Miklos Vasarhelyi, suggested that NFC sub-committees be established to explore five issues. He will distribute a list of suggested categories, and solicit volunteers and suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm. The next NFC meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 2010, 11:30 am, in the Chancellor’s Large Conference Room, CLJ 590.