

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Monday, April 2, 2012 – 11:30 am
Chancellor's Conference Room
Minutes

In Attendance: E. Avakame, P. Axel-Lute, E. Cadmus, A. Laguna-Diaz, R. Oppenheim, P. Peterman, P. Piotrowiak, A. Powell, W. Ren, J. Ruggiero, D. Sclar, T. Szatrowski, M. Vasarhelyi, E. Velez; P. Yeagle; J. Friedland; M. Ryan, J. Otto, L. Mullen, J. Ottomanelli.

I. Chancellor's Report: Dr. Yeagle reported on the following matters:

- Dr. Yeagle expressed concern about the impact the proposed merger of Rutgers-Camden into Rowan University would have on the Newark campus. He has been trying to discourage including Rutgers-Newark in any discussions on this matter.
- Tenure/Promotion cases will be decided by the Board of Governors in New Brunswick tomorrow.
- An Academic Plan for the campus is being developed. FASN held a retreat to develop a plan for their school. Campus academic leaders including deans and the chancellor's staff will also meet to discuss a campus-wide plan.
- Deferred maintenance decisions and campus goals revisions are in progress, aided by input from the NFC.
- Two lists would be helpful to advance the campus's response to the challenge from the Chair of the Board of Governors:
 - a short list of peer institutions
 - a list of other institutions to emulate in the future
- 15 Washington Street – approval was received to go forward with creating graduate residential space, and an architect has been selected. Three floors will also be available for program use.
- Open House/Alumni Event in Mid-April. Rutgers "R;s" will be displayed in dorm windows and elsewhere on campus. A suggestion was made to make smaller magnetic "R's" available for display in car windows and other locations.

II. Chancellor's Excellence Awards – Three new Chancellor's awards will be announced to celebrate the Newark Campus's excellence in teaching, research, and service. Students will be given priority for the service awards, since they are the university's primary focus. NFC members felt that in addition to students and staff, faculty should also be recognized separately in the service category. The Excellence in Teaching award may rely too heavily on teaching evaluations, it was suggested. Supporting documents demonstrating 'best evidence' should also be required. Dr. Yeagle will take these suggestions under consideration.

A discussion followed on a recent proposal to increase the size of RBS class sections (up to 500 per class). TA's are slated to teach 'mega' classes, thus reducing faculty teaching loads by approximately 40 minutes a week. The merits of small vs larger classes were considered. It was noted that large classes have been common in introductory science disciplines for some time. The benefit of this is that students all

attend lectures given by the same instructor and with the same content. The larger classes may be a disadvantage for business classes, since competing schools have more favorable teacher-student ratios.

Rutgers-Camden: Dr. Yeagle noted that the merger with Rowan University has not yet been sanctioned by the Rutgers' boards. There are still too many unanswered questions and it is not clear that all information will be available before the time the decision must be finalized. Dr. Yeagle further stressed that as a result of these developments, Rutgers-Newark needs to build a stronger view of the campus's value to Rutgers University, by strengthening ties to the larger university community.

III. Deferred Maintenance – Marty Ryan gave a report on the progress of the Newark campus's deferred maintenance projects. Slides of his presentation are attached. NFC members questioned whether energy efficiency was being considered in the renovation of 15 Washington Street, and they noted that this would be a good opportunity for use of solar panels and other energy cost-saving measures. A suggestion was made to include new dorm rooms for visiting professors in the building. Recycling on campus was also a matter of concern. Marty assured the group that materials were being placed in appropriate recycling containers.

IV. Open Access Subcommittee of the University Senate Research & Professional Education Committee – Jane Otto and Laura Mullen, with John Ottomanelli, presented a report to support making faculty scholarship widely available online, free of charge and free of copyright and other costs. The publications included would be mostly journal articles. Some committee members, as well as Dr. Yeagle, were strongly unsupportive of this proposal. It was pointed out that authors will bear much of the cost for initial publication, but the libraries will reap the benefits without having made any investment. NFC members were also disappointed that the senate sub-committee report did not include any of the potential drawbacks of this proposal, and did not consider the faculty viewpoint.

V. Other Business: Miklos Vasarhelyi, who chaired this meeting, reported that the topic of a revised grading structure will be addressed at next semester's meeting.

He also noted that Ted Szatrowski was reinstated as Rutgers-Newark Senator-at-Large for a three year term ending June 30, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm. This was the last meeting of the Spring semester.