

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Monday, September 17, 2012 – 11:30 am
Chancellor's Conference Room
Minutes

In Attendance: E. Avakame, P. Axel-Lute, E. Cadmus, B. Jimenez, J. Kettle, J. Larson, D. Morrison, L. Mosher, P. Peterman, P. Piotrowiak, W. Ren, J. Ruggiero, A. Sannella, G. Sodikoff, T. Szatrowski, M. Vasarhelyi; P. Yeagle; J. Friedland.

I. Chancellor's Report – Update on NJ Education Reform Bill:

- Dr. Yeagle described the history of the merger discussions, beginning with the 2002 Vagelos commission report and 2003 Governor's Task Force.
- The recent proposal did not originally mention Rutgers-Newark, but focused on UMDNJ's New Brunswick facilities. By late January, however, the discussion included most of UMDNJ (except the School of Osteopathic Medicine) and provided for Rutgers-Camden's separation in an arrangement with Rowan University. By late May of this year, Rutgers-Newark was also 'on the table.' A separate Newark campus governing board was proposed in addition to the Rutgers Board of Governors.
- Due to major efforts of a campus team assembled to advocate in Trenton and New Brunswick, and in conjunction with the unions, the legislation was revised.
- Two important provisions of the revised legislation:
 - Appointment of a Campus Advisory Board for Rutgers-Newark. The new board will advise the President and Board of Governors in the selection of a Chancellor for Rutgers-Newark; propose capital projects/bonding to the BoG; and also propose to the BoG an annual budget for Rutgers-Newark.
 - Appropriation of a separate line item state budget for Rutgers-Newark.
- Rutgers-Newark will not merge with UMDNJ. Instead a new Rutgers University School of Biomedical and Health Services will be created, under its own chancellor and reporting to Rutgers' president.
- Problems:
 - Rutgers University will have 5 separate state budget appropriations, in competition with one another and also with other New Jersey institutions.
 - The Newark campus' overhead will increase. It will be necessary to hire an external relations person to guide the state budget process.
 - The business school is on two campuses, so it will fall under two separate allocations
 - The College of Nursing will become part of the new health services school.
- Advantages:
 - Stronger interface with UMDNJ leading to new opportunities in Newark.
 - All entities are under the Rutgers banner
- Dr. Yeagle noted he has already undertaken some initiatives to build a good working relationship with UMDNJ. He has met with UMDNJ Interim President, Denise Rogers and discussed UMDNJ connections with the Newark schools, including 2 + 2 programs in Arts & Sciences (2 yrs. at RU-N and 2 yrs. in professional programs in the School of Health Related Professions), and possible

shared courses with the business and law schools. They also discussed coordinating various services, including security/police departments.

- One area where we compete strongly with UMDNJ is in Neuroscience. The Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience (CMBN) in Newark is a particular strength which we would like to preserve.
- It was suggested that the NFC invite UMDNJ faculty to the next meeting to discuss other opportunities for cooperation between the two schools. Miklos Vasarhelyi will extend an invitation to the next meeting. It was suggested that this might also be a good topic for the FASN chairs meeting.
- Dr. Yeagle described recent changes on the Newark campus:
 - Admissions Office moved to Engelhard Hall ground floor
 - New Dean of the Graduate School, Maggie Shiffrar, to revamp GS-N to provide better services.

II. Discussion on revising the Campus Mission Statement: Some suggestions and comments were offered:

- Emphasize that we offer a high quality education to first generation students
- Highlight the urban nature of the campus
- Focus on the excellence of the faculty
- Stress the advancement of knowledge in general
- Instead of focusing on the uniqueness of the campus, to promote it as a solidly good institution of higher education
- The proximity to New York City distinguishes Rutgers-Newark from the other campuses

A committee was formed to redraft the Mission Statement: Phylis Peterman, Miklos Vasarhelyi, Piotr Piotrowiak, and Janet Larson.

III. Chair's Report: Miklos Vasarhelyi urged the NFC to have a more active voice in campus and university matters - to be more proactive - so that the NFC might potentially provide input to the new advisory board. He encouraged members to bring issues of concern to meetings.

An email will be sent to all Newark faculty informing them about the Newark Faculty Council and providing a link to the website.

IV. Other Business: Council members agreed that the recent convocation for President Barchi was a success. Some topics were suggested for further NFC consideration:

- To revisit the issue of excessively large classes particularly in RBS.
- How to encourage attendance in the University Senate where Rutgers-Newark's interests may be promoted.
- Future discussions may be necessary on the relationship of the governing/advisory boards and budgetary matters under the new structure.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm. The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 29th in the Chancellor's Office Large Conference Room, 5th Floor, CLJ.