

NEWARK FACULTY COUNCIL
MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2013 (1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
Chancellor's Conference Room
MINUTES

In Attendance: *Elected Members* Paul Axel-Lute, Michael A. Crew, Benedict S. Jimenez, John R. Kettle III, Lee Mosher, Phylis J. Peterman, Piotr Piotrowiak, Wen-Hua Ren, Jeanne Ruggiero, Alexander J. Sanella, Miklos Vasarhelyi (Chair); *Interim Chancellor* Philip Yeagle; *Executive Associate* Janice Friedland.

Chancellor's Report:

- (1) The Strategic Planning Process is going forward; an outside firm is organizing the collection of information from within the University and external benchmarking data. Interviewing of administrators has been completed. There will be points at which the Newark Faculty Council will be asked to have representation in the process. There will be a number of venues for faculty input and the Chancellor encourages faculty participation. This effort is for a strategic plan for the University as a whole, not for schools or departments. When the University plan is complete (this fall), then schools and colleges should produce their own plans consistent with the University plan. The Chancellor is attending strategic planning steering committee meetings every two weeks, as well as further discussions among the chancellors and the President, concerning the roles of the campuses; he is advocating for an approach that does not box in the Newark campus, but lets us be who we are.
- (2) The Rutgers-UMDNJ integration process continues, with no significant changes to previously communicated information. The integration, official as of July 1st, will not be fully implemented until later than that.
- (3) The budget system will change from All Funds Budgeting (AFB) to Resource Center Management (RCM), under which each unit can expect to retain a significantly higher percentage of the tuition it generates than it has been retaining under AFB, but should also expect higher expenses as previously centralized costs are apportioned. This change is necessitated by the legislatively mandated breakup of the state budget. Our campus, lacking infrastructure for budgeting and accounting, will rely on central administration to do it, and be charged for it. External benchmarking is being done to allow proper valuation of units that generate less revenue.
- (4) Stephen Goldstein will start as Associate Chancellor for External Relations next Wednesday January 23rd.

In questions-and-answers and discussion following the Chancellor's report, the Chancellor indicated that the RCM system will probably be phased in, over a period of up to three years; that the mechanism for subvention of the lower-revenue units would probably be by having a small percentage of all units' tuitions go into a central pool; and that there is still much negotiation going on regarding partitioning of tuition. There was disagreement between two Council members as to the extent to which apportioned costs could be subject to market discipline. The Chair stated that the Council's Budget and Planning Committee should get involved in the budget system discussion.

Campus Mission Statement

The Council reviewed the November 27, 2012 draft revision of a campus mission statement, prepared primarily by Janet Larson and Phylis Peterman. It was noted that we are “adjacent” to just three other institutions of higher learning, not five. Committee will work with Janice Friedland to finalize the statement.

Bylaws Amendments

The Council reviewed and gave preliminary approval to the bylaws amendments as proposed in the October 17, 2012 report of the Committee on Bylaws and Governance. John Kettle raised a question as to the meaning of “the entire Newark campus faculty” in the proposed new Article V. Committee Chair Paul Axel-Lute offered his opinion that for purposes of electing the Senator at large the definition would be found in the Senate’s enabling regulations, and for purposes of electing a member of the Newark Campus Advisory Board the relevant definition would be that found in the existing bylaws Article II section 1 for faculty eligible to participate in Council elections and serve on the Council (full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty and clinical faculty at the rank of assistant professor or above) . Lee Mosher pointed out the need to make clear the relevant definition when at the point of soliciting nominations. Final approval of the amendments will be by ballot sent to the full Council. [Note: According to the University Senate’s Enabling Regulations, those eligible to be or vote for Senators are “full-time faculty members of the University holding the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, lecturer, or the equivalent academic ranks....”]

Chair’s Report

The Chair raised for discussion the matter of large classes, planned to be introduced in the Business School this fall as an economy measure. He expressed concern that this was a major change being made without sufficient thought about possible negative consequences; that this will lead to declines in the faculty-student ratio, in the size of the research faculty, and in the reputation of the school. Alex Sannella spoke about the measures being taken to make the change work as well as possible, including the purchase of student response devices (clickers); he noted that there are three pilot classes this spring, including one at New Brunswick with 240 students, but that the 300 level will not be reached until the fall. Piotr Piotrowiak and Lee Mosher described the practice with regard to large classes in the chemistry and mathematics departments respectively. Piotr noted that some students prefer large classes if they give them the opportunity to have a popular professor. Lee noted there had been frequent change over 20 to 25 years, that success of a program that incorporates large classes can depend on finding an excellent person to run it, and that math had some autonomous sections to accommodate students who would not do well in a large class. The Chancellor expressed the view that the faculty are in charge of the curriculum, and that the class-size issue was one that faculty should determine.

Next Meeting

The next meeting has been rescheduled from February 11th to February 18th. The Chancellor requested that the agenda for that meeting include what nomenclature should be used for the two separate geographic areas (campuses) of Rutgers in Newark that will exist as of July 1st.