

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Monday, February 18, 2013 – 11:30 am
Chancellor's Conference Room
Minutes

In attendance: *Elected Members Paul Axel-Lute, Michael Crew, John Kettle, Janet Larson, Lee Mosher, Piotr Piotrowiak, Wen-Hua Ren, Alexander Sannella, Genese Sodikoff, Ted Sztatowski, Miklos Vasarhelyi, Edin Velez; PTLFC Executive Board Member, Ray Liebman; Interim Chancellor Philip Yeagle; Executive Associate, Chancellor's Office, Janice Friedland;*

I. Announcements:

Miklos Vasarhelyi introduced Ray Liebman, part-time lecturer in the business school and a member of the PTLFC Executive Board. The NFC is considering including representation of PTLs and other non-tenure-track faculty.

Alex Sannella will schedule a meeting of the budget subcommittee with Assistant Chancellor for Budget and Administration, Mary Tamasco.

II. Chancellor's Report: Chancellor Yeagle noted that the strategic planning process is well underway. Surveys have been sent to faculty, meetings with key individuals and with focus groups are being conducted, and town halls have been scheduled (April 4th in Newark). He shared his concerns about the process with the council.

A document produced by the Boston Consulting Group contained a Venn diagram (overlapping circles) which grossly misrepresents the Rutgers-Newark campus. It labels Rutgers-New Brunswick as the 'AAU/Flagship/Research Intensive/Life Science Hub', while assigning the terms 'urban', 'access', 'diversity', and 'community involvement' to Rutgers-Newark. Although those labels are accurate, as they are for all three campuses, Rutgers-Newark is also a vigorously research-intensive campus, with strengths in the life sciences (CMBN), and it has always been assumed we share AAU status. Dr. Yeagle has challenged the inaccurate portrayal of the Newark campus, but Rutgers' central administration's viewpoint remains unchanged.

The NFC budget subcommittee will investigate whether tuition paid by Rutgers-Newark students actually subsidizes Rutgers-New Brunswick's per student costs.

Dr. Yeagle will deliver the campus report to the University Senate in the Robeson Campus Center in Newark on Friday.

Council members agreed that a strong counter-campaign needs to be lodged and that we need to solicit the support of Northern New Jersey politicians in this effort. Dr. Yeagle pointed out that Steven Goldstein, Associate Chancellor for External Relations is actively engaged in that task.

III. Chair's Report: Miklos Vasarhelyi introduced a discussion on digital education, noting the trend toward utilizing online instruction to accommodate an increasing, more diverse, and less local student population, and to be more competitive with other institutions, including the Rutgers-New Brunswick campus. Some hybrid model that combines online courses and

smaller in-class instruction would reduce the need for large classes. Dr. Vasarhelyi pointed out that the credibility of online degrees has improved, and that Rutgers benefits from being a recognizable brand. Harvard, Stanford and MIT have all been successful using learning technology. A motion was made by Piotr Piotrowiak to form a committee to pursue this topic further. The motion was seconded by Paul Axel-Lute and the council members voted unanimously in favor.

IV. Campus Nomenclature: Signage will soon be needed to distinguish the locations of the two distinct Rutgers campuses in Newark, Rutgers-Newark and the Newark section of the newly created Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences. One suggestion was “Rutgers-Newark East Campus” and “Rutgers-Newark West Campus”. Miklos Vasarhelyi asked the council members to mail any other suggestions to him.

V. By-Laws Revisions: The NFC members present unanimously approved the bylaws amendments recommended in the February 14, 2013 Report of the Committee on Bylaws and Governance, with the following changes: In Article II Section 1 change 'include' to 'consist of'; in Article II Section 3 change 'including' to 'consisting of' and after 'full-time non-tenure-track appointees' insert '(other than those included in section 1 of this Article)'. The main purpose of these amendments is to provide Council representation for contingent faculty. These amendments, together with those given preliminary approval at the previous meeting, will now be sent to the full Council for final approval. During the discussion of the amendments, it was noted that further revision will be necessary to reflect that the College of Nursing will no longer be entitled to representation on this Council as of July 1, 2013.

VI. Mission Statement: The revised Newark Campus Mission Statement was approved with one abstention. It will be posted on the campus website.

VII. Grading Conventions: Janet Larson presented a resolution to the council supporting the addition of minus grades to the Rutgers-Newark grading conventions - for NCAS, University College, College of Nursing, the Rutgers Business School (undergrad) and the School of Criminal Justice. She explained that most US schools include minus grades. It was noted that it is possible to change the grading system for individual colleges. Faculty generally support revising the grading conventions, but students have strong reservations, since the numerical value of the grades are also subject to change. A vote on the resolution was postponed and the Academic Affairs subcommittee will continue to investigate this matter. The subcommittee will also examine how to increase the student response rate for teaching evaluations, which are now done electronically.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm. The next meeting of the Newark Faculty Council is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2013 at 11:30 am in the Chancellor's Large Conference Room.