

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Monday, April 15, 2013 – 11:30 am
Chancellor's Conference Room 590
Center for Law & Justice

Minutes

In attendance: *Elected Members Paul Axel-Lute, Edem Avakame, Paul Boxer, Michael Crew, John Kettle, Janet Larson, Phylis Peterman, Piotr Piotrowiak, Arthur Powell, Alexander Sannella, Genese Sodikoff, Miklos Vasarhelyi; Interim Chancellor Philip Yeagle; Executive Associate, Chancellor's Office, Janice Friedland;*

- I. Chancellor's Report:** Interim Chancellor Yeagle reported on areas of concern relating to the university restructuring and strategic planning process:
- **Budget:** Large discrepancies exist within the strategic planning process in the use of university resources as they are apportioned across the three major campuses. President Barchi provided a chart indicating the dollars spent per FTE student. The chart confirms that Newark received about one-half to two-thirds of New Brunswick's allocation. Furthermore, Rutgers-Newark students generate more tuition revenue, which appears to be funding a part of Rutgers-New Brunswick's educational needs. Dr. Yeagle noted that his persistent requests to obtain explanations for these differences have not been addressed.
 - **Centralization:** The university structure (organization chart) is in the process of being revised. Many of Rutgers-Newark's administrative functions are to report directly to New Brunswick with dotted-line relationships to the Newark Chancellor. These may include safety, transportation, custodial services, facilities (projects and maintenance), HR, and others. This change would seem to be a reversal to past structure, although the president explained it was part of an effort to be more customer-service oriented. Faculty council members expressed concern that local authority over these services might be compromised with this new level of administration. They questioned whether local intervention would continue, and whether local staffing would be reduced to compensate for New Brunswick's oversight. The president has not yet discussed whether academic services would be centralized, nor has there been any mention of combining graduate schools. It was also noted that the merger with UMDNJ will be very costly and that the State is not covering the costs.
 - **Members questioned why the restructuring act's requirement for separate budgets for each campus was not honored.** Dr. Yeagle noted that state legislators have been informed about this and the matter was brought up at the recent legislative budget committee hearing held at Rutgers-Newark two weeks ago. Prior to that hearing, Dr. Yeagle met with President Barchi, who indicated that he would invite both Dr. Yeagle and Camden's Chancellor, Wendell Pritchett, to discuss how the state allocation would be divided. That meeting has not yet taken place and the university has since submitted one comprehensive budget to the state.
 - **NFC actions suggested:**
 - set up discussion groups on important issues
 - contact Camden Faculty Council for their support
 - take an activist approach
 - schedule an additional NFC meeting
 - subcommittees to meet to discuss relevant issues
- II. Chair's Report:** Miklos Vasarhelyi asked NFC members to submit votes for representatives of the R-N advisory board by the end of today. He also reported that Professor Wayne Eastman, Vice

Chair, RBS/SCMMS, was selected to serve as Senator-At-Large on the University Senate. He thanked NFC members whose terms are expiring on June 30th: Phylis Peterman, Genese Sodikoff, Edin Velez, Michael Crew, Gerald Frenkel, Paul Axel-Lute and Wen-Hua Ren.

III. Grading Conventions Update: Janet Larson summarized her research supporting amending the grading conventions for GS-N, the School of Criminal Justice (graduate), and the College of Nursing (graduate), to include intermediate letter grades of A- and B-, with their respective grade points calculated as 3.67 and 2.67. She provided a handout of the proposal with explanatory material (attached), including a calculation by the Registrar of a hypothetical student's grades under the current and the proposed systems, which shows that introducing the minus does not significantly change the cumulative GPA but could more accurately represent the students' work. In his absence she conveyed Ted Szatrowski's email questioning why the NFC should be involved and stating his view that the schools should do this on their own. Dr. Larson asked that the NFC to endorse the idea of provisionally circulating this draft of the resolution, with an additional summary of earlier Senate discussions attached, among the three Newark schools, noting that the new provision would attach to the individual school. There were no objections.

IV. Budget Committee Report: Alex Sannella reported that the New Brunswick budget committee (which included deans from all units) was charged with changing the formula for All Funds Budgeting. The All Funds Budgeting Formula will result in some minor reallocations in the formula percents. There will not be major changes to the current structure for the short term.

V. Other Business: Agenda Items for supplementary meeting:

- Redistribution of assigned parking places
- GS-N fellowship allocation
- Non-matriculated student matters
- Accountability of deans
- Branding of the Newark Campus
- Scripted coaching of graduate students for university strategic planning forums.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm. This was the last formally scheduled meeting of the semester. A supplemental meeting of the Newark Faculty Council will be scheduled within the next few weeks to discuss unfinished business. Phone conferencing will be available for those who cannot attend in person.