

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Monday, December 2, 2013 – 11:30 am
Chancellor's Conference Room 590
Center for Law & Justice
<http://nfc.newark.rutgers.edu>

Minutes

In attendance: *Elected Members* **Edem Avakame, John Aveni, Paul Boxer, Michael Crew, Jyl Josephson, John Kettle, Barry Komisaruk, Kenneth Kressel, Ray Leibman, Susan Lyons, Lee Mosher, Arthur Powell, Piotr Piotrowiak, Keir Reavie, Alex Sannella, James Tepper, Ted Szatrowski; *Interim Chancellor* Todd Clear; *Chancellor Designate*, Nancy Cantor, *Syracuse Univ. Associate VP*, Peter Englot; *Executive Associate, Chancellor's Office*, Janice Friedland.**

I. Discussion on RU-Newark Strategic Plan:

After introductions were made, Todd Clear talked about his November 7th Town Hall presentation which launched RU-Newark's strategic planning process and started a conversation on the meaning of 'excellence' for RU-Newark as a public institution. Faculty participation will be an important component of the strategic planning process. In January, he will initiate a listening tour of the campus along with incoming chancellor, Nancy Cantor and Marcia Brown, who will join the chancellor's staff in January. He noted that the merger with RBHS (formerly UMDNJ) resulted in new autonomy for Rutgers University-Newark, creating new opportunities and possibilities for exciting new partnerships.

Nancy Cantor described her conversations with President Barchi, noting that Rutgers' central administration is prepared to give RU-Newark full reign to develop independently, while also sharing collaborative work with the other Rutgers campuses. We will do our own fundraising. We will have our own advisory board. We will determine for ourselves what a great university in an urban setting can and should be. Rutgers University-Newark will be an engaged partner in the city and region, with national and global influence. We will lead as a diversely populated urban research university. Dr. Cantor also gave assurances of continued support for the humanities and sciences.

A discussion followed on the town hall presentation slides and the themes they promoted. Members discussed whether it is always beneficial to stress diversity as RU-Newark's major strength without also pointing to other areas of distinction. Some of the comments were:

- The presentation's messages could have been more inclusive, and could be customized for a variety of audiences.
- We need to be reminded that our main stakeholders are students and their parents, who are interested in a high-quality education and safety.
- We need to promote the excellent academic programs offered at RU-Newark.
- The combination of diversity and excellence will uniquely situate us to be leaders in an increasingly global environment.
- RU-Newark should advance new models for the university of the future - in technology and teaching.
- More can be done to encourage undergraduate research and joint programs with RBHS.
- The slide presentation should avoid linguistic traps - phrases like "impact-oriented".

- How will we address programs split between campuses such as business and law?

Dr. Cantor noted that the strategic planning process will serve to consolidate the many directions the campus might take. Planning committees will be charged to consider topics such as RU-Newark's place in the international arena, incubator models, and fiscal structure. The NFC will assist the chancellor in determining committee makeup. The committees will be discussed at the December 12th Town Hall meeting.

Dr. Clear asked NFC members to send him suggestions for changes to his presentation. He asked NFC Chair, Piotr Piotrowiak to select a few members to continue this discussion. Jyl Josephson will be one of the participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. Meetings for next year will be announced shortly. The January 27th meeting was cancelled due to programming conflicts.

Very Happy Holidays to All – See you next year ☺