

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of Monday, March 9, 2015,
11:30 am -1:00 pm
Chancellor's Conference Room – CLJ

Minutes

In attendance: *Members:* J. Aveni, A. Gates, J. Gilman, M. Hamidullah, J. Kettle, B. Komisaruk, K. Kressel, S. Lyons, G. Miller, L. Monteiro, K. Reavie, A. Sannella, T. Szatrowski, M. Vasarhelyi; *Chancellor* Nancy Cantor; *Provost* Todd Clear; *Chancellor's Staff:* Nabil Adam, Arcelio Aponte, Shirley Collado; *Administrative Support:* Janice Friedland.

I. Chair's Report:

- Acceptance of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the February 9th meeting.
- Ombudsman - In response to John Aveni's recommendation at our previous NFC meeting for an RU-N ombudsman, Ken Kressel was asked by the Chair to report that the Strategic Planning group for Staffing for the New Mission is considering appointing an RU-N ombudsman.
- Star Ledger Article – Dr. Komisaruk called attention to the article he circulated about Muslim students at Rutgers who are being placed under surveillance by New York City police for belonging to the Muslim Students Association in Newark and New Brunswick.

II. Budget Overview

Vice Provost Arcelio Aponte presented a report showing the breakdown of revenues and expenses in the RU-N budget, noting that 50% of RU-N's revenue is from tuition and fees. Fringe benefits constitute the next largest budgeted item at 12%. The budget has up to now been balancing out, and hopefully the state appropriation will remain flat. However, potential cuts to the operating portion of the state's appropriation to cover increases in state-covered fringe benefits have been proposed in the Governor's budget. Thanks to Arcelio Aponte, the budget is more manageable and understandable. Mike Gower (Rutgers Sr. VP of Finance and Treasurer) has done an extraordinary job for the system as a whole, resulting in more transparency. Dr. Clear gave credit to Arcelio for working well with Mike Gower. Ted Szatrowski asked what happened to the promise that RCM and All Funds budgeting would run concurrently, noting the FY15 budget seems to still be in All Funds. Dr. Clear answered that RCM is now being modelled for 2015 and real numbers will be available at the end of the fiscal year. Dr. Cantor, who has extensive experience with the RCM budget model, explained that it would not be helpful to jump to RCM too quickly, before understanding fully the way services are organized and how to optimize the economies of scale of a system with the specificity of service at each university in the system. Mr. Aponte pointed out that even after the RCM system launches, it will need constant 'tweaking,' particularly in complicated areas like enrollment, libraries, and OIT.

Dr. Cantor used the library system as a good example of the complexities of budgeting in a system in which some services are system-wide (e.g., licensing of journals) and some very

specific to each location. RU-N will continue to make additional improvements to Dana Library, as per the strategic plan. IT is another case example.

Barry Komisaruk asked where strategic planning initiatives, such as Nabil Adam's research agenda, fit into the capital campaign funds. It was noted that most of the campaign funds are donor-designated and spread across the system. There is not really a new 'pot' of money, as the funds are typically donor-designated for specific projects, such as scholarships or professorships. Also, the benefit from the Rutgers/RBHS merger was \$7.2 million in additional funding in the state appropriation for strategic initiatives for RU-N. Any state reductions could cut into that, so we are working to economize elsewhere. The total increase system-wide, it was pointed out, was in reality a decrease due to the overall cost of the merger. For that reason, it is significant that Newark and Camden received separate, increased funding. The merger created political interest in supporting each part of the system.

NFC members stressed the importance of telling this story to the media and to RU-N constituents. Dr. Cantor noted it would not be advisable to engage in a we/they mentality, and that information has already been transmitted to RU-N departments, as evidenced by the response to the seed grant program, which received 72 applications for this year's round of grants. It was agreed that everyone be made aware of these fundamental, continuing budgetary changes.

John Aveni noted that this matter is analogous to the crime issue. We are always cautious about sending the wrong message and making comparisons when reporting good news. However, we need to get the word out, and can possibly communicate through the deans.

III. RU-N Research Overview

Vice Chancellor for Research and Collaborations, Nabil Adam used PowerPoint slides to report on RU-N's research initiatives. The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has been meeting monthly to discuss ways to strengthen RU-N's research agenda, reorganize the ORSP office, and collaborate with Central and RBHS. The RAC members include representative faculty from RU-N academic units. It explores ways to promote multidisciplinary research collaborations and address in a timely manner challenges impeding such collaborations. Dr. Chris Molloy, Sr. V.P. for Research and Economic Development, and his staff, have joined the RAC at some of these meetings.

Some of the changes include:

- Two new positions will be created at the RU-N ORSP:
 - Research Facilitator - to directly support RU-N faculty, provide updates on funding opportunities, communicate with other Rutgers facilitators, build interdisciplinary teams and increase RU-N faculty participation in university-wide initiatives.
 - 3rd Research Contract/Grant Specialist
- Collaboration with Central (ORED) – To leverage Central's resources and to advance dialog on the needs and opportunities for the RU-N research community,
- Multidisciplinary Research Teams (IMRT) Awards:
 - To invest in collaborative academic and research programs
 - Grant program intended to foster the creation of viable multi-disciplinary research teams that can tackle the complex, multi-faceted research questions facing us today.

- 14 proposals received so far; initially 2 to be allocated, but there could be others.
- With the RU-N Chancellor and Provost, and RBHS Chancellor and two provosts,
 - Enhance cross collaborations with RBHS on three areas of strength where strategic plans overlap:
 - 1) Neuroscience (to include Kessler Institute, VA, and NJIT)
 - 2) Data Science, Learning, and Applications
 - 3) Strong, Healthy, and Safe Neighborhoods
- Launched the Institute for Data Science, Learning, and Applications (I-DSLAI) and related activities.

Nancy Cantor commented that she and her team are working with the deans on marketing opportunities for RU-N. Instead of sending names to New Brunswick to be included among their nominations for various awards, we are now often making our own nominations independently. She asked NFC members to keep her office informed about award competitions so that RU-N can submit applications. Award nominations also help when applying for grant funding, she noted. Please send this information to Nabil Adam.

Ted Szatrowski suggested a list be created and circulated of all the research seminars being held at RU-N. Alec Gates noted that many programs relating to RU-N's diversity would be good matches for education grants. UMBC has obtained a large amount of education grants, he said. We could possibly collaborate with RBHS. It was also noted that given the amount of work it takes to apply for grants, faculty must be motivated and be given incentives. Dr. Cantor suggested she could speak to the deans about possibly offering course relief for grant-seeking faculty.

We are making significant progress in two areas, Dr. Clear advised - on the budget, and on research. The goal is to substantially increase the amount of RU-N external research funding. Miklos Vasarhelyi stressed the importance of simplifying the byzantine system of preparing paperwork in this process. Dr. Clear responded that efforts are being made to resolve these issues at the system level. Ken Kressel mentioned a separate committee that is dealing with Taber matters. Dr. Adam asked NFC members to notify him about specific problems and cases.

Barry Komisaruk noted there clearly is great interest in research among the faculty, given that 72 applications have already been received for the seed grants, and that our undergraduates are showing a significant increase in interest to become involved in research, indicating that the message of the importance of research experience is getting across. Lyra Monteiro suggested sending the applications not selected for funding to the research office to be matched with granting agencies.

Dr. Komisaruk thanked Chancellor Cantor and her team for the informative presentations and their transparency. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next NFC meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015, 11:30-1:00 in the Chancellor's Large Conference Room.