

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
RUTGERS

Interdepartmental Communication

November 22, 1993

TO: Members of the Newark Faculty Council
FROM: Paul Tractenberg *PT*
RE: Stepping Aside as Chair

As you will recall, I agreed to continue as the Newark Faculty Council chair into this second year only because Miklos Vasarhelyi, last year's vice-chair, received a last minute leave. At the time, I believed that Miklos would be on leave for the entire academic year. Only recently I learned that he is returning in January.

Prompted by that realization, I have decided to step aside as NFC chair, effective next semester. Frankly, I have found myself totally overloaded this semester by many responsibilities, including the substantial burdens of trying to give the NFC the time and effort it deserves. As you may be aware, my NFC-related responsibilities have extended well beyond meetings of the Council and its committees, substantial as those may be. I also have served on the Middle States Interim Report Steering Committee, the Campus Strategic Plan Committee, the University Senate and its Executive Committee, and, most recently, the joint Rutgers/Newark-NJIT Planning Committee.

Regarding those activities, I would like to think that I have represented the NFC well on all but the University Senate, as to which the burdens of traveling to New Brunswick for meetings have proven largely insurmountable. I also would like to think that the Council has made further progress in establishing itself as a major player on this campus. Within a few weeks, our major work of this semester--input to the Campus Strategic Plan--will be completed. For next semester we will have to move ahead on the remaining agenda items agreed to at our last meeting. It is an appropriate time for me to step aside as chair, and to be able to devote more time and energy to a number of major research and writing projects which have been deferred this semester.

My initial thinking was that Miklos would assume the chair, and its related responsibilities, upon his return. After all, my continuation in the chair was occasioned by Miklos' leave. Although the NFC By-laws do not speak to the matter, our

operating assumption has been that the chair would serve one year and be succeeded by the vice-chair. If Miklos were to assume the chair for the Spring semester, in effect I would have substituted for him for one semester.

However, when I broached this idea, Sylvia Wolkstein pointed out that another approach was possible--that Ray Caprio, the current vice-chair, might assume the chair. The By-laws are silent about this, too. I have discussed the matter with Ray and he is willing to serve as chair next semester. (Miklos is still away and I have not been able to reach him.) Ray also is quite willing to continue as vice-chair under Miklos' chairmanship. Ray and I agreed that the Council should decide how it wished to proceed. But the matter is complicated even further by the fact that both Ray's and Miklos' terms on the Council are ending in June of this academic year. Whether either or both will be re-elected by their faculties we can not know with certainty. As part of deciding about a new chair, therefore, the Council might be well advised to consider how it might assure some continuity of leadership for next year.

I am confident that the Council will reach an appropriate resolution. I look forward to continuing to work on the Council's important agenda as a member and past chair under either Miklos' or Ray's able leadership. On a personal note, I appreciate your support, hard work and friendship during the past year and a half.

cc: Provost Norman Samuels
Sylvia Wolkstein