

Minutes of Newark Faculty Council Meeting
March 9, 2020

Present:

Nancy Cantor
Ashwani Monga
John Gunkel

Alexander Gates, Chair

John R. Kettle, Jr.
April Benasich
Ashaki Rouff
Michael Barnett
Joseph Markert
Rosa Oppenheim
Jiahuan Lu
Tim Raphael
Mary Rizzo
Beryl Satter
Gary Farney
Brandon Paradise

Guests:

Laura Troiano, Honors College
Amber Randolph, Senior Vice-Chancellor of Economic Development and Finance
Elizabeth Surrals, Dana Library

Chancellor Cantor:

Covid-9 Virus: Given how it is spreading, we have to be prepared for “remote” teaching. We’ll have a process of certification with each faculty member creating a plan for such teaching on the Monday after spring break. Some of our students won’t have access to high-speed tech if they’re at home. We can’t risk them losing credit for courses, so we should be flexible and creative. Plan should have two pieces: 1) webex, blackboard, etc; or 2) an alternative set in case people don’t have access. It could be posting notes, videos, assignment on Blackboard. If you can only access email, give them an option that will work for that. Plan for the rest of the semester, just in case. Chairs will certify the faculties’ plans, then it goes up to deans, chancellor, president of Rutgers.

There are controls in place to stop international travel. Avoid domestic travel. Limit or stop Rutgers-sponsored travel. For large on-campus events – Admitted Students Day, etc. – we might

go remote on all of them. Big crowds are how this virus can be spread, so unfortunately they must be limited.

Q: what about summer travel plans?

A: We're not cancelling yet – stay tuned, but it doesn't look good. We are taking a rolling approach to the problem. An outbreak in NB doesn't mean RN will close, and vice versa. We're shutting all the "Alternative Spring Break" events etc. Amtrak might cancel Acela trains. We are retraining custodians to keep areas clean/ virus free. Reimbursements are slower at the moment – please keep careful records. There's a Covad-19 code for reimbursements caused by cancellations caused by the virus.

Laura Troiano, Acting Director, Honors College

-The Honors College is a 19 credit minor concentration. Students do honors theses, etc. We'd like natural science faculty to teach some courses; we will give you a PTL buyout (for the fall). We want to keep our courses interdisciplinary. We encourage students to do projects outside of their discipline. We're looking for Senior Thesis advisors too. We leave it to faculty to determine the length/ substance of Senior Theses. We'd like to have a point person per department to keep in contact. We're always looking for student referrals. We will be creating a faculty advisory council also, to help rethink junior and senior courses. We're looking for (especially paid) internships, if you have any ideas. We are sponsoring Research Week, April 6-8. We are looking for judges for the poster competition.

Q: How large it is?

A: 200 students, across all the schools.

Q: What's relationship, HLLC and HC?

A: We are coordinating on a number of projects, including the summer Mellon Program. Co-teaching at times, study abroad together, etc. But we are separate from HLLC.

Q: How do we know who to recommend? What's difference, HC/ HLLC?

A: Ours is non-residential, HLLC is residential. Ours takes transfers, theirs does not (with some exceptions). We to professional-school preparation. We do attend to SAT scores.

Q: Size of cohort?

A: 20 to 30 in one cohort.

Q: Seminars for HC only?

A: Yes; though we are doing some hybrids (with MA students, for example).

John Gunkel:

We need to elect a new senator at large. Alex Gates will work with Anna Rivas to solicit nominations. Only one position is open right now. John Kettle is finishing his term now. Most of the work gets done through the committees. It can be very productive. Kettle will talk to anyone who is interested. They discuss things like merging of the medical schools – major issues. Any faculty person can serve.

Alex Gates:

Please let me know if you have issues for us to discuss in the NFC. Email Alex about it. E-Institutional Research Board – they are considering overhauling it. We'll have info about that soon. They'll be here to speak to us about it (EIRB). Sometimes I've had grants held back for months because of the EIRB system.

Amber Randolph, Senior Vice-Chancellor of Economic Development and Finance

-I've been here for a year. I came from private sector (investment bank doing community investment). I work on economic development; how to optimize our built environment; how to be an anchor institution in Newark.

Q: What's up with building across the street? And the library? 8th floor of 1WP?

A: Across the street: 48 New Street (HLLC residents); 398 beds for the students. Also meeting spaces and small classrooms. Also 11 retail spaces on ground floor; community-serving vendors; café, food services, etc. Hope to be completed by start of this summer. Open to residents in the fall. It will have parking – over 200 spaces. We took parking spaces away to set it up – we hope to return the spaces once it's open. Deck 3 will remain. (Deck 3 had been contracted out to various businesses over the years.)

Library project: 3rd floor; it will be home of P3. Also the permanent residence of the graduate school's global experiential learning, and an enhanced study space. Completion mid-summer. There'll be a new entrance to the library also.

Q: Does this hurt the library? The lack of books seems to be a problem.

Cantor:

This was planned for years, and it was planned with Consuela Askew – she's been deeply involved. We finally got funding to get it opened. It was a big feat to get it going. Askew is very happy to have increased space for the graduate students.

Randolph:

We're building something at 155 Washington; a new admissions and welcome space. It will be parking adjacent. Across from Golden Dome. It will also have residential (upper floor) and

ground floor retail. They will be market-rate apartments. The Urby – smaller living spaces, larger community spaces. Probably 2 years before it's done.

Q: Are we involved with new building around Broad Street station?

A: No.

Randolph:

-1 Washington; a ground-floor Starbucks just opened up. It's doing well. Upper floor (8th floor) has renovation plans, to make room for more academic programs. Business school is working on it.

Q: Any plans for café on 1st floor of RBS?

A: Not sure. The Bistro shares a kitchen with Starbucks – that was the plan, to keep the Bistro open. More info when it's available.

Randolph:

-There've been conversations about relocating 1-Stop from Blumenthal Hall. Now, finalizing the plans to relocate it to 1st floor of Conklin. This is our next big development project. First floor Conklin will be bigger, more convenient, and a more rational use of space.

Q: Will it affect grad school and American Studies?

A: We're relocating grad school to the library. Writing Center will be most affected; it might move to library also.

Q: Is this part of redoing the front of Conklin?

A: We're just dealing with first floor of Conklin (vs Conklin and Boydston).

Randolph:

We're also adding more ADA-accessible elevators to Conklin. One will be an exterior elevator. We're doing some work on Olson Hall (re: heating/ cooling).

Q: Bradley Hall – anything going in there?

A: We're looking at it, but there's no formal plan at the moment.

Q: Can we rig podiums so that they control the lights, in RBS, so we don't have to go to turn off lights in order to use the screen?

A: We'll look into it.

Q: Senate Committee often has questions about labs and their upkeep. Is this your purview?

Cantor:

We just did a \$10 million project in Olson. We're considering new ways to do upgrades.

Q: I've heard that with new system, if you get a grant with little or no overhead, it costs the campus to take it. Where does the money go?

Randolph:

We're looking into this. I'm in touch with Budget Office. There's a perception that this problem exists – not the real story.

Alex Gates:

I'm having trouble with NJIT lately. Anything going on there?

Cantor:

There are some issues with joint labs, computer science, etc. Denis Pare is working on this. It's ongoing. Both institutions have things they're trying to accomplish. Mostly it's OK. We're still working closely together.

Q: What about lack of access to high speed internet for our students? This hurts our already disadvantaged students. Can we work with data providers to give them access in Newark, or elsewhere? Say with T-Mobile or Verizon, to give a discount to our students for the service?

Cantor:

That would be logistically difficult. It's not a huge issue with our students – still, let's not get too fancy with remote learning. We can look into it.

Gunkel:

It's not easy to negotiate such discounts.

Q: How many students are we talking about?

A: About one in five. This refers to all sorts of disadvantages with computing, including lack of laptops. 23% don't have a computer with high speed internet connection at home. But we're not hearing complaints from students about this.

Randolph and Cantor:

We can look into ways to get info to students about affordability, including textbook affordability and food insecurity.

Gunkel:

We've been talking to library and bookstore about affordability issues. We could use faculty members to join us.

Elizabeth Surrals: on behalf of Dana Library

-We have a grant for faculty working on making textbooks more affordable for students.

-Library has laptops available for checkout. Let your students know.

Minutes taken by Beryl Satter