

Newark Faculty Council
Meeting of December 1, 2008 – 11:30 am
Chancellor's Conference Room
Minutes

In Attendance: V. Atluri, S. Hall, F. Jordan, R. Jones, A. Laguna, W. Ren, R. Snyder, J. Tepper, M. Vasarhelyi, I. Watson, L. Zaborszky; S. Diner, S. Butterfield, C. Martancik, G. Roth, M. Ryan, A. Torres, G. Vincenti, J. Friedland; M. Botticelli, B. Rowe.

I. Chancellor's Report - Chancellor Steven Diner reviewed some issues that the NFC had discussed over the past year:

- Budget – If there is no news from the State by the end of December on a mid-year recession, there is a chance it may not occur. However, next year's budget, to be presented in January, will no doubt mandate cuts for all state agencies. Increased enrollment could cushion some of the cuts. More students look toward public/state universities in difficult economic times. With the upcoming move of RBS, more classrooms will open up, so there is room for expansion. The campus will also need to generate revenue by creating new initiatives. No hiring freeze is yet projected. All units have been asked to model a 5 percent cut (university-wide). There are already funds allocated for classroom renovations, but not for laboratories.
- New Schedule Grid – The new grid was devised in anticipation of the RBS move to 1 Washington Park. Some RBS classes will still be on the "main" campus and students will be walking back and forth. The new grid took into consideration requests from deans, senior administrators, and others (student affairs, student services, student leaders, etc.). The grid was re-circulated this fall since not everyone reviewed it last spring. It has been suggested the old grid be retained until next fall to permit feedback on the new one. A suggestion was made to link class scheduling to campus parking/commuting patterns. Dr. Laguna suggested that the NFC website be updated and be accessible to all faculty.
- Blumenthal 3rd Floor – Concerns were expressed that the 3rd floor of Blumenthal Hall is currently too crowded, and needs to be upgraded to improve atmosphere and service. Staff and faculty require separate areas to obtain id's and conduct related business. Gene Vincenti noted that the RBS move will open up space for campus services to be relocated. Englehard Hall is being considered to house a campus welcoming center.

II. Chair's Report – Asela Laguna continued the discussion of NFC concerns:

- Undergraduate Curriculum Changes rationale – Dr. Laguna noted that the newly proposed curriculum only refers briefly to the urban mission and diversity, and needs to be framed more within the scope of the campus mission. Sherri-Ann Butterfield replied that the proposal was deliberately left open-ended to allow for additional suggestions. Writing and diversity issues were not yet included as they need more in depth survey across units. The general education requirements were approached by examining learning goals common to most universities. It was noted that the proposal was just recently presented at the FASN chairs' meeting and will be further discussed at the January meeting.
- Computer access – Concerns were expressed that there is not adequate computer access on campus. Dana Library's lab seems to get the most traffic, and students have to be turned away. Marie Botticelli noted that lines at Hill Hall occurred

- mostly during free period, and although crowded at other times, there were usually seats available.
- Campus personnel need to be more hospitable, courteous, friendly, and efficient when dealing with faculty, students, and other campus visitors. Dr. Diner noted that the Human Resources department is continually looking at ways to improve staff morale and efficiency.

III. Wireless Classrooms – The NFC subcommittee sent a report of their discussion to Marie Botticelli, Director of Newark Computing services. They recommended that wireless communication be available throughout the campus. Since some faculty members oppose computer use in their classrooms, it was decided to send the report to deans and department chairs, soliciting their input, before implementing any changes. NFC members were asked to share the report with faculty in their units and to share comments at the next meeting. It was suggested that Rutgers-Camden be consulted on this matter, since that campus is fully wireless.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009, 11:30 am, in the Chancellor's Conference Room

!!!HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!