



Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Urban Education
University Heights • 110 Warren Street • Newark • New Jersey 07102-1814
(973) 353-3532 phone (973) 353-1622 fax
sadovnik@rutgers.edu

To: University Senate

From: Alan Sadovnik, Chair Newark Faculty Council

Re: Senate Report, December 1, 2006

The NFC has met twice so far during the Fall semester on October 9 and November 13, 2006. The Council considered the following items:

1. 2006-2007 Budget Crisis: Status, Process and Effects

The NFC heard reports from the Provost and members of the Council who interviewed (electronically) chairs, as well as some Deans and Faculty with respect to the following questions:

- a. How were cuts made in your department or program? As chair (Dean or faculty) did you have input into the decisions?
- b. What cuts, if any, were made (i.e. full time faculty lines; PTL lines; TAs; staff and support lines and services; other)?
- c. How have these cuts affected your department's faculty and students?

Although the extent and effects of the cuts varied across departments and schools, all departments and schools have been adversely affected. Three themes emerged: (1) Chairs and faculty felt that they did not have sufficient input into the process; (2) The cuts have negatively affected faculty, students and staff; (3) The Rutgers-Newark campus has cut all of its "fat" and cannot make additional cuts in response to continuing reductions in state support without seriously harming many programs' abilities to minimally serve their students. In response to these reports, the Council cautioned against the belief that if the campus has been able to continue to function effectively, it can ultimately survive more cuts. To the extent that the campus is continuing to function effectively, it is due to the extraordinary efforts of faculty, administration and staff to pick up responsibilities that were once done by others. Such efforts cannot and should not be used to justify these and future reductions in state aid.

2. University Budget Analysis: Allocation of Resources to Newark, Camden and New Brunswick

The Provost reported that the convening of an Ad-hoc Budget Equity Committee proposed by the President has been delayed and that its mission will be re-conceptualized in the context of long term strategic planning. President McCormick proposed this Budget Equity Committee (BEC) at his meeting with the Council in Spring 2006 as a response to the long-standing perception by RU-N faculty that the Newark campus has not received a fair share of University resources. Its charge was to provide empirical evidence about resource allocation on all three campuses. Consistent with the administration's stated goal of transparency, he argued that data-driven evidence was crucial for determining whether RU-N faculty perceptions were in fact reality.

The NFC unanimously approved a letter to the President expressing its concern over this decision and urging him to reconsider it, especially given the continuing concerns by RU-N faculty that recent budget cuts were not administered in an equitable manner across campuses.

3. Research and Grants Policies: Newark Office of Sponsored Research and Rutgers Foundation Grant Policy

On November 13, 2006, the NFC met with Carol P. Herring, President of the Rutgers Foundation and members of her team and Jacqueline Cornelius, the newly appointed director of the RU-N Office of Sponsored Research.

The purpose of the meeting with the Rutgers Foundation was to discuss the new assessment policy on all foundation gifts and grants. Although Ms. Herring explained the need to raise a significant amount of money to fund the billion dollar capital campaign, members of the Council expressed concern that the 5% assessment makes no distinction between gifts and grants. A number of Council members pointed out that many foundations expressly prohibit overhead or indirect cost charges on grants and that the assessment charge may be in violation of these policies. Ms. Herring indicated that if foundations expressly prohibit such an assessment charge for grants, the charge may be appealed to a University wide committee, consisting of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Provosts of Newark and Camden. She also indicated that departments, centers or institutes that are primarily reliant on "soft money" funding to meet their non-state funded expenses and have few other resources to draw upon could also apply for an exemption on a case-by-case basis.

The purpose of the meeting with Ms. Cornelius was for her to meet with the Council for the first time since her Interim Director status was made permanent. She reported on the function of her office and answered numerous questions about pre-grant preparation, support and post-grant administration.

The final meeting of the Fall semester will be held on Monday, December 4, 2006.