

Request to the University Senate

We, the Chairs of the four Rutgers Faculty Councils, ask the University Senate to consider supporting our request that the following subsection be added to section 50 of the University Policy Library in order to provide official University recognition to the Faculty Councils. The rationale for this request is given below.

Proposed Subsection 50.?.1 The Faculty Councils

- A. The Faculty Councils of Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Rutgers University – Newark, Rutgers University – Camden, and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) are shared governance bodies at the Chancellorial level. All the Councils consist of faculty members elected by faculty.
- B. Each Council operates under By-Laws that specify, among other things, the Council's role, purposes, powers, membership, modes of election, governance, and fundamental procedures. Each Council's By-Laws also specify the procedure for amending those By-Laws.
- C. Each Council provides advice and recommendations to the Chancellor on a wide variety of matters of concern to faculty and is the principal officially-designated faculty body from which the Chancellor seeks advice on such matters.
- D. Each Council also performs such other functions as are set out in its By-Laws.
- E. The Chancellors shall provide each Council with the access, information, cooperation, and resources necessary for it to fulfill its responsibilities.
- F. The Faculty Councils complement rather than supplant faculty governance bodies of individual units, the University Senate, and other standing and *ad hoc* advisory committees established by the Rutgers administration, the University Senate, and other authorities. Each Faculty Council Chair or designee serves as a liaison to the University Senate and reports on Council activities at Senate meetings.

Rationale

The four Faculty Councils: Camden, Newark, New Brunswick, and RBHS, form an important part of shared governance at Rutgers University:

- Each Faculty Council is the principal officially-designated faculty body from which the given Chancellor seeks and receives advice and recommendations on matters of concern to the faculty.

- Since the Senate, the principal shared governance body on the presidential level, includes student, staff, and administrative representatives, in addition to faculty, the Faculty Councils are the highest-level elected faculty-only governance bodies in the University. As such, the Councils can provide unique faculty perspectives on issues of interest to the Rutgers community.
- The Faculty Councils work cooperatively with the University Senate. Council Chairs or their designees serve as liaisons to the Senate and report on Council activities at Senate meetings. A number of Faculty Council members are also very active members of the Senate. Individual Faculty Councils may refer issues of University-wide interest to the Senate for consideration while the Senate may refer issues of more local interest to the appropriate Faculty Council.

Given the importance of the Faculty Councils to shared governance at Rutgers, we argue that the existence and roles of the Councils should be recognized by the Rutgers Central Administration and Board of Governors via inclusion in the University Policy Library. Accordingly, we have drafted the subsection above to be added to section 50 of the Policy Library. The new subsection briefly defines the Faculty Councils and their roles in shared governance. More information about each Faculty Council can be found on the Council's website.