
I. Chair’s Report

Virginia Tiger, who was on sabbatical this past fall, is NFC chair for the spring semester. She introduced her report with a tribute to Provost Norman Samuels who will be retiring as Provost, and returning to the faculty, this July.

Also introduced were the following topics:
- President Lawrence’s announcement that he will be stepping down in July.
- Expansion Committee Report - the council members voted in favor of student service enrollment expansion for Rutgers-Newark.
- Senators-At-Large – nominations are needed to fill two positions on the University Senate.

II. Provost’s Report: Dr. Samuels discussed the following matters:

- Enrolment has increased this semester, and will hopefully hit 10,000 students by September.
- Budget cuts will be made for this and next year. The State has reduced the university’s budget by 5%, or $23 million. After reserve accounts are depleted, this will amount to about $10 million for FY02, and about $1.5 million for the Newark campus. Instructional areas will remain intact for now. Administrative/clerical/support areas are to be cut first. Each Dean and Associate Provost was given a figure to cut for their units. Uniformed police will not be cut.
- The Capital Campaign is progressing nicely, although little of those funds are absorbed into the budget.
- Faculty salaries will not be rolled back. All contracts will be honored.
- Presidential Search - the BoG is finalizing a plan for a Search Committee. A Search Firm will also be contracted. Dr. Samuels talked about the danger of politicians’ involvement in university matters. Dr. Lawrence will remain until the Presidential search is complete.
- Virginia Tiger again expressed good wishes to Dr. Samuels on behalf of the entire Faculty Council. Dr. Samuels has recommended that an interim Provost be chosen as of July 1st (to be announced this spring), and that a search begin in the fall. It is better that a new provost be formally appointed by the new president.
– The NFC will meet with the Acting Provost this spring.
– Custodian issue - many of the R-N custodians are Rutgers employees, represented by AFSME. The rest were employed by an outside contractor (for the past 6 years). The contractor was using non-union labor. When that contract was unionized, their cost skyrocketed, and the campus put the contract out to bid, selecting a new contractor. The difference in cost is in excess of $300,000 per year an would have come in the midst of budget cuts.

III. Resolution - passed unanimously, the following resolution was sent in a letter to Mr. Gene O’Hara, Chair of the Board of Governors:

“The Newark Faculty Council urges the Board of Governors to include the broadest possible representation of faculty, students and alumni on the search committee for the next President of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.”

IV. New Business
– Barbara Stern expressed concern about lack of security on campus on Saturdays, after having been confronted with an intruder one weekend. She suggested a guard be stationed at the New Street booth on weekends. Wen-Hua Ren also noted that the campus police would not escort a colleague to Penn Station on a recent Sunday night. The director of campus police had agreed to provide this service at the last NFC meeting. The provost made note of this for Associate Provost Gene Vincenti to investigate.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next Newark Faculty Council meeting will be on Monday, April 8, 2002, 11:30 a.m., in the Provost’s Conference Room, 5th Floor, Center for Law & Justice, 123 Washington Street.