I. **Provost/Chancellor Report:** Provost Todd Clear opened the meeting and noted that Professor Jyl Josephson could not be present, but her summary of the Strategic Planning Oversight Committee’s work was distributed to all members earlier. Also distributed was a statement sent by Barry Komisaruk from the ad hoc NFC committee. Dr. Clear noted that feedback about the Strategic Visioning process showed how energized the process has been. Dr. Cantor reported that notes from the listening tour, charrettes, and open forums are being compiled and will be shared. As many meetings as possible were held to assure a true process of participatory democracy, she said.

Chair, Piotr Piotrowski thanked the ad hoc committee and said the May NFC meeting will be an opportunity to respond to the Newark strategic plan draft, which is due to the Board of Governors in June. Dr. Cantor noted the draft will be about 20-30 pages long. A group of 2-3 NFC members with Dr. Jyl Josephson, will craft a response. Dr. Cantor said the draft could be distributed electronically before the May NFC meeting. It is also important the NFC be involved in implementation of the plan. She explained her preference to provide exemplar topic areas from the various strategic visioning meetings in the written plan and to form committees along those lines. While it is important to get some projects started quickly that clearly respond to needs identified through the process, the plan’s emphasis should be on presenting the key points that came out of the charrettes, tours, NFC, and other meetings, and then establish various committees to flesh out more detailed proposals. Barry Komisaruk suggested setting up a mechanism to submit proposals, similar to the president’s 100-day process. Dr. Clear noted two of the most repeated themes were breaking down academic silos/promoting cross-unit collaboration, and the student experience relating to recruitment.

Madinah Hamidullah noted that Examples 1 and 3 in the NFC ad hoc committee report should list the School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA) instead of the School of Public Policy (which does not exist at RU-N).

Piotr Piotrowski noted all the current NFC members would be able to review the plan, since expiring terms run through the end of June. Discussion followed on how the Newark plan would coordinate with the overall university system plan. Dr. Piotrowski expressed concerns that the university has already begun implementation of several system-wide proposals in the university plan, such as those relating to cyber infrastructure and the computer network. Dr. Cantor advised that RU-N will make investments on important areas which may or may not overlap those already begun by Rutgers’ central administration. The president’s 100-day
initiatives committees will be making decisions which will also have relevance for RU-N and there will be Newark representatives at the table. Dr. Piotrowiak stressed the importance of articulating our needs now while these matters are being decided, so as not to be overlooked. We only have one person on the cyber infrastructure committee, Nabil Adam, he noted. Recognizing that RU-N’s history with Rutgers’ central administration may make some wary, Dr. Cantor assured that we will be absolutely vigilant. We will be making our own investments and must start developing proposals for courses and symposia. We will develop a strong strategic plan for RU-N and will also be given a portion of the 100-day initiatives’ allocation. Dr. Clear noted that 80% of that funding is from tuition and grants, and 20% from the state is already apportioned to our advantage. It is more important to determine what we need and how we can generate additional resources. We need to stand behind the extraordinary positive energy generated by the strategic planning process, Dr. Cantor stated.

Barry Komisaruk asked if there are funds set aside for special initiatives, and if we are to receive funding for Henry Rutgers scholars. Dr. Cantor explained that the Henry Rutgers professors program will be a multi-year initiative. In the first year, 7 out of 20 scholars will be appointed. RU-N is already recruiting one professor. We also have been assigned a portion of the Henry Rutgers graduate fellows. Each school will have at least one. Central will share in the cost. Dr. Cantor stressed again that we must focus on our own agenda. Dr. Piotrowiak suggested that in the process of participating in the system-wide growth of Rutgers, RU-N’s excellence must be promoted as part of the nucleus of system-wide initiatives. We should be aggressive and proactive and create a network of interactions. Dr. Cantor agreed and gave the example of an RU-N Math and Biological Sciences core described in the NFC ad hoc committee’s report, which might join with RBHS and NJIT.

Ray Liebman pointed out that the university-wide strategic plan only makes one reference to PTL’s. He requested that this often overlooked group of essential faculty be included in the Newark plan. He and John Aveni, who are the two NFC contingent faculty representatives, urged the chancellor to recognize the great contribution PTL’s make to the university and what they bring to the table. Dr. Cantor replied that the strategic visioning meetings allowed for cross-sector contributions and the importance of PTL’s was one of the points discussed.

Jane Gilman lauded Jyl Josephson’s efforts in the strategic visioning process saying she did an ‘incredible job’. She also noted that the administration needs to be careful about how the energies of faculty and staff are used. She cited the dedicated faculty in the Mathematics department’s who worked hard to build the department and create a department that served the needs of students and was supportive of research, but did not benefit from changes and improvements. Other faculty and new hires were the ones who benefited and the faculty that worked hardest became discouraged. Dr. Cantor said it will be important to keep the dialogue going.

Barry Komisaruk suggested the chancellor and provost commit to an annual proposal application procedure, so that the process is continuous. Dr. Cantor agreed it is important not to lose our opportunistic flexibility and to set up a regular cycle. Dr. Clear suggested a distinction be made between ongoing projects and new initiatives. There needs to be an examination of recurring costs versus seed money, Dr. Cantor added.

II. **Campus Safety:** Dr. Clear noted the following:
• Petty theft is the most common crime on campus – most often of student belongings. RU-N does not have many violent crimes.
• RU-N is partnering with local security people – Prudential and Panasonic. We have already integrated with RBHS and talks are ongoing with NJIT. Talks with the city will take place after the mayoral election.
• A different method of announcing existing threats has been instituted, which avoids an alarmist approach and is more informational and instructive.
• Incident rates at RU-N are actually lower than in New Brunswick.
• RU-N has more than doubled the number of officers with the integration of RBHS. He will look into how many total officers there are and report back to the NFC.
• Essex County College does not use external officers.

Discussion followed on how to reduce petty theft. It was suggested that an education program be established to inform students and others not to leave their belongings exposed, and to make students aware when this occurs. Dr. Clear noted that the police are doing more student training, and that training for faculty may also be useful.

Dr. Clear introduced Arcelio Aponte, the new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, who replaces Kemel Dawkins, who went to Michigan State University. Mr. Aponte’s background is in real estate and economic development, gained through work with the City of Newark and 14 years of experience in higher education.

III. Chair’s Report:
Piotr Piotrowiak reintroduced the topic of the cyber infrastructure group in the president’s 100 days program. Professor Nabil Adam is the RU-N representative on this 8-person committee. Most of the members of the working groups are from Rutgers-New Brunswick.

Jim Tepper raised the following topics:
• The post awards office move to New Brunswick initiated in 2013 has caused grant processing difficulty for RU-N faculty. Dr. Clear acknowledged that this move did not work out. The reason for the move was to cut down on duplication of services university-wide, although a Newark specific research office (with RBHS) would be more logical. Chris Malloy is sympathetic to working out a solution. The pre-award area is still in Newark. Consolidation of Facilities, however, did create a more efficient organization. Consolidation of HR services is still being worked through.
• Housing needs for visiting scholars: Dr. Clear noted that there are multiple units in Newark, but they are often booked. We need a way to better allocate the space. Arcelio Aponte is looking into adding capacity, but guaranteed income generation is a factor. Dr. Cantor noted that adding residential units to the renovation of the 15 Washington Street building would be too expensive. Units are available in Talbott and in one of the brownstones, it was pointed out, but the rules for renting the available units are often ‘murky’.

IV. Other Business: Ray Leibman offered his support for the president’s decision to have Condoleezza Rice continue as university commencement speaker.

Next Meeting: The meeting scheduled for May 5th was moved to Monday, May 19, 11:30-1:00 to allow time for review of the strategic plan draft.