**Newark Faculty Council**

**Minutes**

**October 18, 2021 - (Zoom meeting)**

**In attendance:**

Nancy Cantor, John Gunkel, Ashwani Monga, Sherri-Ann Butterfield, Amber Randolph

Michael Barnett, Brian Murphy, Haesun Kim, Barry Komisaruk, Joe Markert, Tracy Tran, Laura Lomas, Lynnette Mawhinney, Sean Mitchell, Miklos Vasarhelyi, Krista White, John Kettle, Erich Toncre, Nermin Allam, Domonic Bearfield, Brandon Paradise, Ana Rivas.

Meeting was called to order by Michael Barnett at 11:32 am.

May 17, 2021 meeting minutes approved.

**1. Chancellor's Update**

Nancy Cantor: As we return to in-person teaching, it is important to express support for students affected by Covid. To this end, we are initiating a re-engagement campaign to support our students and potential students. We are emphasizing the importance of faculty involvement in working with the Chancellor's office, student affairs, and care team.

John Gunkel: A University-wide decision was made to have all winter classes taught remotely due to concerns about the possibility of travel rates going up during the holiday. This is only for the winter term. Moving forward, the University plans to go with in-person teaching.

**2. Introduction of members of the NFC and the Chancellor's office**

**3. Purpose of Faculty Council**

Michael Barnett:

Thanked past chair, Alec Gates, and previous NFC members.

Explained the purpose of the NFC:

 Collaborative & solutions-oriented; work *with* administration to solve problems.

 Deliberative body; we investigate issues & write thoughtful reports.

 Transparent & communicative; report to and draws input from the faculty.

Mentioned that the NFC website has been updated and asked for feedback. Also introduced URG on SG (Urge on Shared Governance), which will first convene on Nov 10th, and encouraged participation of the NFC members. The information has been sent to the Faculty.

**4. Role of the Standing and Special Committees**

Michael Barnett: Introduced five standing committees and one special committee of the NFC. NFC standing committees were dormant and have been revived this year. Each NFC member must serve on a standing committee, and the plan is for each committee to report back to the NFC each month. Each committee also has an *ex-officio* member from the administration. Non-NFC faculty members are invited to join the NFC committees.

*a. Budget & Planning Committee (Joe Markert)*

Issues being discussed: Whether NTT can have an option to exclude student evaluation of on-line courses. Currently, T/TT faculty members have the option.

*b. Budget & Planning Committee (Barry Komisaruk)*

Asked about status of Seed Grant program; also whether departments can organize on-line courses that are paid for credits. This can be an incentive for departments.

Nancy Cantor: Regarding the Seed Grant, the current problem is the budget, but her office is in discussion to restart the program.

*c. Bylaws & Governance Committee (Brian Murphy)*

The committee has not had a meeting yet, in the process of defining the issues. Will give an update at the next meeting.

*d. External Affairs Committee (Tracy Tran)*

The committee is considering reaching out to not only the Newark area, but also to communities in NJ state-wide, including other campuses within the Rutgers system.

Also discussed creating sub-committees to interact with their counterparts on other campuses.

*e. Facilities & Services Committee (Haesun Kim)*

The committee discussed two issues: 1) status of the HVAC system in old buildings, such as Hill Hall and Smith Hall, and 2) canceling of the Harrison line for students.

Nancy Cantor: Regarding the HVAC, IPO has done extensive update through out the campus, so it is done. Harrison line usage was very low and expensive; thus we may need to discuss alternatives.

Amber Randolph: It would be helpful to know the current usage, perhaps in discussion with the committee and the GSN, so an alternative solution can be worked out. Students responding to a survey regarding transportation would be helpful as well. Regarding the HVAC, update on individual offices was not made because no one was able to enter individual offices. Thus, feedback from any Faculty members with issues would be helpful.

*f. Special Committee (Miklos Vasarhelyi)*

Currently collecting information to set a defined agenda.

**5. New Business**

Presentation of a plaque to the former NFC Chair, Alec Gates.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.