**Newark Faculty Council**

**Minutes**

**November 8, 2021 (Zoom meeting)**

**In attendance:**

Nancy Cantor, Sherri-Ann Butterfield, Ashwani Monga, John Gunkel, Michael Barnett, Barry Komisaruk, Alexander Gates, Brian Murphy, Domonic Bearfield, Erich Toncre, John Kettle, Joseph Markert, Krista White, Nermin Allam, Sean Mitchell, Tracy Tran, Ray Williams, Ana Rivas, and ooc-laptop1 designee

Meeting was called to order by Michael Barnett at 11:33 a.m.

Minutes of October 18, 2021, meeting approved without objection.

**Chancellor's Office Update:**

*Nancy Cantor*: Commencement ceremony will be held this week on November 12 at the NJPAC to celebrate 2020 and 2021 graduates in person.

Seed grant: The Chancellor's office is currently working on the Seed Grant Program and Chancellor's IDEA awards. Announcements for both will go out soon.

*Sherri-Ann Butterfield*: Chancellor's Award is now called Chancellor's Impact Award, and will be open for faculty, staff and students. Teaching, research, and service components are considered for this award, as well as public-engaged work and work across units. Announcement for the award will go out next week.

Notice of award for the IDEA grant program will go out this week, or early next week. The award happens across Rutgers and each campus has different foci. For Rutgers-Newark, it focuses on works that address the RU-N Strategic Plan.

All faculty members and staff now required to be vaccinated, except those with medical or religious exemptions. The deadline for vaccination is Dec. 8. Rutgers employees who are vaccinated, but have not uploaded their proof of vaccination should upload their documentation ASAP

*Michael Barnett*: Can we know the overall percentage of people who are vaccinated?

*Sheri-Ann Butterfield*: We have a high percentage of people who are already vaccinated. It is a very small number who are still unvaccinated among all active employees.

*Sean Michell*: What is the procedure for evaluating vaccine exemption request?

*Sheri-Ann Butterfield*: There is an exemption request evaluation committee. The members include health professionals and those who can evaluation religious exemption requests. It meets three times per week to provide fast response to vaccine exemption requests.

For faculty and staff, failure to provide proof of vaccination without receiving university-approved exemption will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Mask mandate is in place on campus. Faculty should remind students in class to wear masks properly. Student non-compliance issues regarding the mask mandate can be reported to Erika Williams at the Office of Student Conduct.

*Haesun Kim*: Is there a plan to fully open the Golden Dome Athletic & Fitness Center?

*Sheri-Ann Butterfield*: The biggest challenge is getting students to work at the facility. There are campaigns to encourage students to apply for the job, but it has been difficult given the capacity issue. We will revisit this in January. I believe more students will come back now that all the faculty and staff are getting vaccinated. I will report back to you in Spring

**Chair's update:**

*Michael Barnett*: Introduced NFC Executive Cabinet. Composition: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and three other at-large NFC members are elected. Duties: 1) set agenda for NFC meetings, 2) review and evaluate functioning of NFC, and 3) act for NFC between meetings and during summer.

Starting 2022, we will resume in-person NFC meetings. First meeting will be in February in the Chancellor's conference room or alternative space.

Asked for suggestions for guest speakers to present at general NFC meetings.

*Alec Gates*: There was a conversation on making DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) part of the promotion, tenured and advancement review. If that comes through, it will be an important aspect that we should weigh-in especially from the Newark campus.

*Ashwani Monga:* There has not been a discussion in the PRC regarding DEI, at least that I am aware of.

**Committee Reports:**

*a. Faculty Affairs Committee (Joe Markert)*

No pending issues.

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

Nothing new to report.

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

We will have a meeting soon; will make a presentation at the December meeting.

*d. External Affairs Committee (Tracy Tran)*

The committee plans to meet in early December. Will report at the December meeting.

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

Provided a follow up on the issue regarding HVAC system and air quality in individual faculty offices. According to the information provided to the committee by James Campoli, there were a total of 10 HVAC calls in the past 60 days with 6 being temperature calls. There were no calls to indicate indoor air quality problems in faculty offices, therefore the Physical Plant is not aware of any standing issues. All the HVAC systems are maintained regularly. Anyone experiencing air quality problem in offices should first report to the Physical Plant and they will address the problem. At this point, the committee does not consider this an issue for the NFC to address.

**Old Business:**

*Michael Barnett*: URG on SG will meet on Wednesday at 2:30 pm. Asked for NFC website feedback.

**New Business**

*Michael Barnett*: How do we get faculty input into the NFC committees? To this end, we are considering sending out a survey to the faculty to determine concerns for the NFC to address.

*Nancy Cantor*: It would be better for the representative from the NFC to go to department chairs or faculty meeting to identify or solicit issues. There have been many surveys sent to the faculty but with low response rate. Direct conversation with faculty may be more effective.

*Joseph Markert*: Survey would be a good idea.

*John Kettle*: Each NFC member should introduce themselves at faculty meetings and solicit agendas in person and report back to the NFC. Survey has not been effective due to low response rate.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.