**Newark Faculty Council**

**Minutes**

**December 13, 2021 (via Zoom)**

**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, Amber Randolph, Brandon Paradise, Lynnette Mawhinney, Miklos Vasarhelyi, Robert Apel, Ana Rivas

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

November 15, 2021 meeting minutes approved.

**Chancellor's Office Update:**

1. Progress toward our mission:

* 10 grants announced for faculty, staff, and students
* Impact Awards: putting together Seed Grants, reinventing Chancellor’s Impact Awards
* Much activity regarding faculty hiring, post-doc program, and faculty grant awards.
* Students have experienced tremendous stress and strain during the pandemic. Student Affairs hosting "destress" events on campus, from Dec. 13-22nd
* Central effort coming out from HR to be involved in sub-committees on the future of work. Many from our campus are involved. There will be surveys and focus groups. We ask for RU-N faculty to speak up so that your voice can be heard
* Sherri-Ann: For the Impact Awards, people can be nominated as a team or as an individual. It is important to recognize the collective and the collaborative nature of the work
* Separate Impact Seed grant: applications due on Feb 15th, for up to $25,000

2. Presentation on Climate Action Plan by Kevin Lyons (Office of Climate Action)

Overview of the University Climate Action Plan:

* NJ Climate is changing
* Carbon dioxide and global temperatures are going to increase by 2100
* University doing our part by working together with the community
* Task Force Goals (set on September 24, 2019): Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience
* Chancellor units have developed action plans
* Planet action task force: 120+ contributors from all four chancellor units and student advisory panel (13 students, co-chaired by the five student task force members)
* Office of Climate Action looking at the infrastructure of Rutgers
* Want to participate? Reach out to Kevin Lyons directly

**Chair’s Update:**

* Looking into changing URG on SG format to something other than a book club
	+ Welcome your suggestions on highlighting importance of shared governance
* NFC meetings will move to in-person in 2022.

**Committee Reports:**

*a. Faculty Affairs Committee (Joe Markert)*

* The committee plans to address the issue of Academic Freedom
* Amount of support from the administration to protect academic freedom of our faculty members recently has been questionable
* Feedback welcomed

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

* Thanked the Chancellor's Office for developing the Seed Grant program
* Asked for an update on the RU-N strategic plan developed years ago
* Nancy Cantor: Website has an update and a speech given to the University Senate; happy to give an update to the NFC. Tremendous progress has been made: creation of the various anchor initiatives, the Seed Grants, Staff Council, various pipeline programs and pathway programs, support for publicly engaged scholarship, increased the representation of Newark students at RU-N by 100% etc.
* Sherri-Ann Butterfield: RU-N schools and colleges are going to be charged in the Spring to do their own strategic planning. The deans will reach out to the faculty for input in the next several months and think about how the plan fits within the university strategic plan.
* Nancy Cantor: University strategic planning answers a lot about diversity strategic planning effort but would like to emphasize that for RU-N, we are all about that and it is at the core of who we are and what we do. We need to build on what we are and make sure that we are doing that fully.
* Michael Barnett: Is there a formal way to track progress on the strategic plan?
* Nancy Cantor: The progress was reported to the University Senate and the websites are being redone. We can do formal assessment if the NFC wants, but what we all want to do is do the work. Everyone is working hard. If there is a specific update you want, glad to have the conversation.

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

* Nothing to report

*d. External Affairs Committee (Tracy Tran)*

* The committee would like to pose some questions to the entire faculty to gather information on the level of engagement from the personal level to the department and school. The committee hopes to use the data to promote public engagement projects and outreach efforts.
* The committee plans to look into whether Rutgers is a Carnegie Foundation designation for public engagement school.
* Nancy Cantor: The administration is looking into this, so the NFC does not have to.

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

* Nothing new to report
* Previously, the committee discussed whether there is a plan for electric charger installation on the campus. The committee would like to gather data on the usage of electric cars for faculty commuting to campus.
* There had been discussions at the upper level regarding the car charger, but the question became how to maintain the chargers and the cost issue and that is where the things are stalled.
* Amber Randolph: The issue is certainly on the administration's radar as there was some demand for e-charging stations around the system. The data on usage would be very useful to understand how many faculty, staff, and students have interest and openness to e-vehicles, car sharing, etc. It is probably a longer-term conversation to continue to have.

*f. Special Committee: Taming Bureaucracy (Miklos Vasarhelyi)*

* The committee has been collecting cases and classifying them, after which will reach out to the university at the higher level to discuss how it can be simplified.
* Many bureaucratic processes got exacerbated during the pandemic, creating a whole set of demands on administration that increase the cost.

**Old Business:**

Sherri-Ann Butterfield: Golden Dome will be opened fully soon. Pool has been repaired but will confirm. Public announcement will be prepared.

Vaccine noncompliant issue:Covid vaccine dose deadline has been changed to Jan. 4th and all should get either both shots or one shot by the deadline. Only a small number of TTs and NTTs noncompliant. There are disciplinary actions for those who do not get vaccinated, up to and including termination.

Sean Mitchell: Faculty union has been supportive of the vaccine mandate.

Michael Barnett: NFC is preparing a faculty survey. Please add to the survey items, so it can be finalized soon. Survey will go out to the faculty in mid-Jan

Discussion on the status of strategic plan at the NFC meeting may be a good thing, to receive reports on and try and help finding solutions to implementation.

**New Business**

Brian Murphy asked about RU-N student enrollment status

* Ashwani Monga: Enrollments are down this year. Even undergrad enrollment has been declining. However, things seem more promising moving forward.
* Sherri-Ann Butterfield: Enrollments have been impacted by Covid. The administration plans to engage in multiple campaigns to bring those students back and support them. That is a goal.
* John Gunkel: reiterated the Covid impact. There has been an increase in Law School enrollment. Small increase among diverse population
* Status on student application numbers: we will report next time we meet. Challenges for in-person recruiting.

This is the last meeting of the calendar year.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 pm.