Newark Faculty Council minutes

November 14, 2022

Present: Nermin Allam, Robert Apel, Ed Bonder, Nany Cantor, John Kettle, Barry Komisaruk, Sean Mitchell, Amber Randolph, Ana Rivas, Jeffrey Robinson, Pallavi Shukla, Elizabeth Surles, Erich Toncre, Tracy Tran, Miklos Vasarhelyi

* Welcome comments by Cantor and Robinson
  + Priorities: student recruitment, faculty recruitment and retention, STEM, partnerships, innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship
* Introductions by all NFC Staff and Members
  + 19 committee members
  + Member list will be distributed
  + Vacant seats for SPAA, Business School, and School of Law
  + Moment of silence for Krista White
* Member roles as representatives of NFC
  + By-laws and Newark faculty survey results will be distributed
  + Barry Komisaruk will be NFC Chair, Bob Apel Vice-Chair, and Elizabeth Surles Secretary
* Consideration of carryover of practices/issues from last semester
  + See subcommittees, below
* Update NFC website
  + No action
* Subcommittees
  + Budget and planning: Successful request to reactivate seed grant program. Council members expressed interest in continuing this subcommittee.
  + External affairs: Looking at implementing online courses (e.g., MOOCs) using existing RU structure to increase enrollment and expand learning opportunities offered by RU-N. Issues include departmental authority and the revenue model. Subcommittee also looked at outreach across RU-N, its Carnegie community engagement classification, and limited faculty visibility on websites.
  + Faculty affairs:
  + Facilities: Interest in charging stations for electric vehicles. Existing research on this is available, as transportation is an issue being studied by the climate change committee. A. Randolph, Co-Chair of RU-N’s Climate Action Group, will follow up.
  + Bylaws and governance: Governance remains an issue of interest.
* Consider faculty responses to last year's survey
* NFC resolution
  + No action
* Consideration of objectives for the NFC for this academic year
  + Enrollment, particularly international students
  + Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action
  + Preliminary plan for town hall meetings on governance
    - NFC initiates at departmental level, if faculty support a governance town hall meeting, NFC will approach Deans/departmental admins to coordinate
    - Start small as a test
    - Possibly split SASN and RBS sessions
    - Consider using RU-N strategic planning group structures
  + Departmental/school websites and faculty visibility (important for reaching prospective students)
* Suggestions for guest speakers
  + Peter Englot and Kimberlee Williams on new website and RU-N website architecture
  + John Gunkel and Rudi Leuschner on RU-wide online instruction
* Preferred NFC meeting formats
  + Consensus in support of continuing hybrid meetings
  + Meetings will be recorded
* Requests by students
  + Students asking for study spaces to attend classes relocated online at the last minute (e.g., when a professor is ill). A. Randolph putting together a list of campus spaces that can be shared with students.
* Initiative recommendations?
  + See above
* Other issues, concerns
  + None raised

Submitted by Elizabeth Surles, NFC Secretary