Newark Faculty Council minutes

December 5, 2022

Present: Nermin Allam, Robert Apel, Ed Bonder, Sherri-Ann Butterfield, John Gunkel, John Kettle, Barry Komisaruk, Laura Lomas, Lynnette Mawhinney, Sean Mitchell, Stephanie Newbold, Amber Randolph, Ana Rivas, Jeffrey Robinson, Pallavi Shukla, Elizabeth Surles, Erich Toncre, Tracy Tran

- Chair welcome: Meeting will focus on last semester’s outstanding goals and projects.

- Update from the Chancellor's office: Tabled until next meeting.

- Discussion of Rutgers-Newark website: Peter Englot was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, so this agenda item was tabled.

- Approval of the minutes: Erich Toncre moved to accept the minutes from the November 14, 2022 NFC meeting, and Pallavi Shukla seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

- Follow up from NFC meeting of November 14, 2022:

Student study spaces list—Amber Randolph shared a room finder designed for students as a starting point. John Gunkel described its use, background, and purpose. The RU-N IT team developed the room finder partially in response to the pandemic, although it was in the planning stages before the shut-down. The reservation tool is available for instructors and student groups and is featured through the “Digital Professor” in RU-N’s newsletter and on the MyTech Newark website: <https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/>. NFC representatives were encouraged to share this information with their faculty units.

Subcommittee updates—

o EV charging stations

No current updates. RU-N Climate Action Group has met and has some overlap with the transportation group. They are working on getting a campus-wide study together, which is still in process. Henry Velez is the transportation group coordinator. Amber Randolph will follow up for more information.

o Online courses

John Gunkel will speak at the next NFC meeting about this.

For discussion—

o Last semester's faculty survey

Based on last semester’s survey, Barry Komisaruk tried to map survey responses to NFC subcommittees to act on suggestions and questions coming from the survey. Komisaruk asked whether NFC would like to pursue the proposed subcommittee work and possible action items, requested NFC input on the options, and asked for volunteers to serve on subcommittees. [See NFC Subcommittees document circulated by Ana Rivas]. The question was raised as to whether current heads of subcommittees would be willing to continue in their roles. The Faculty Affairs Committee’s actions to address part-time lecturer pay and plagiarism issues was discussed.

o Bylaws

All NFC members are required to serve on at least one subcommittee, according to NFC bylaws. NFC members were asked to email Ana Rivas after the meeting to volunteer for a subcommittee.

o University Senate resolution

NFC revisited the University Senate resolution about part-time lecturers and non-tenure track faculty appointments, as there was not an NFC quorum present to take a vote at the previous meeting. The resolution was distributed for NFC review, and Barry Komisaruk asked NFC members how to proceed.

Discussion about the resolution and process ensued.

Ed Bonder moved, and Tracy Tran seconded the motion that NFC strike the prior vote because there was not a quorum when NFC previously voted on the resolution. The motion passed.

(Specify name) moved: “Be it resolved that the NFC supports the University Senate resolution, dated 3/25/22.”

Sean Mitchell seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Ed Bonder moved that we table the motion being discussed, and that Barry Komisaruk and Elizabeth Surles determine how to take a vote via secret electronic ballot. Barry Komisaruk seconded the motion. Sean Mitchell amended Ed Bonder’s motion that the vote and any continuing discussion occur before the end of the semester via email. Laura Lomas seconded the amended motion, which passed.

New business—

There was no new business.

Ed Bonder moved to adjourn the meeting, and Tracy Tran seconded the motion, which passed.