Newark Faculty Council minutes

February 20, 2022

Present: Nermin Allam, Robert Apel, Ed Bonder, Sherri-Ann Butterfield, Nancy Cantor, Lenese Jean-Odumuko, Barry Komisaruk, Laura Lomas, Brian Murphy, Ana Rivas, Jeffrey Robinson, Pallavi Shukla, Elizabeth Surles, Erich Toncre, Tracy Tran, Miklos A. Vasarhelyi

1. Minutes approval

The minutes from the December 5th NFC meeting were approved.

2.Chancellor update

Chancellor Cantor reported on a number of areas. Exciting curricula at Express Newark recently led to the creation of history maps about topics ranging from slavery to redlining and current issues in the community. The Chancellor’s Seed Grant Program was restarted, with 23 seed grants awarded last year. There will be a seed grant event later in the semester. Chancellor Cantor indicated there was good support for interdisciplinary centers from the New Jersey legislature, with funding going to a variety of programs and initiatives. She called attention to the P3 Collaboratory space and the Dana Library renovations and highlighted faculty collaboration with City of Newark, including the Newark Safety Collaborative, CLiME’s work with Mayor Baraka on affordable housing, Kevin Lyon’s local supply chain work with Newark Anchor Collaborative, Newark City of Learning, and the City Verses Project.

It was recommended that a summary of these accomplishments be published on the NFC website to help publicize these initiatives and spread the word, based on Chancellor Cantor’s slides and remarks from her report to the Board of Governors.

3.Lenese Jean, Associate Director of Human Resources, Guest Speaker and Discussion on Faculty-Staff luncheon

Lenese Jean shared information about the employee appreciation luncheon scheduled for March 3rd, which happens annually every first Friday in March in celebration of National Employee Appreciation Day. The luncheon would be at Stonesby Commons starting at 11 a.m. on March 3rd, and the inclusion of faculty was new in 2023. The event was being supported by the Office of the Chancellor to show appreciation for Rutgers employees and their work, especially given the pandemic. Rutgers-Newark HR was partnering with the Rutgers-Newark Staff Council and would like to partner with the NFC as well. Partnership would require approval of the NFC and NFC volunteers to help staff the welcome table at the event.

The NFC approved partnering on the event and would disseminate information about the luncheon to the faculty.

4.Upcoming speakers

Please send questions to speakers in advance.

Peter Englot: 'RU-N websites'. March 20 (in person)

John Gunkel: 'Overview of online course formats'. April 24 (virtual)

Jeffrey Robinson: Robinson would be providing an update from the Provost’s office at the May 22nd meeting and not a report on RU-N enrollment.

Several follow-up questions on the Chancellor’s report followed. First, one question was asked about the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Café and whether its hours would be extended.

Another question was asked about how to offer support for students going through the transfer process. The answer was that students in the process of coming to RU-N should go to Blumenthal for the temporary one-stop service desk. For students already at RU-N, they should go to the CARE team. Academic questions should go to Sofia Pinto-Figueroa.

The last question was about the option for catering options outside the university to incorporate more cross-cultural foods at events. Food requirements for campus buildings may not always permit this, but Sandra Draper at campus catering may be able to accommodate requests for different food choices.

5.Subcommittee reports

Membership list update:

There was an incomplete response to the last email requesting NFC members join a subcommittee. The request would be re-sent. The current status of subcommittee membership was reported:

Faculty affairs—needs one more person since one subcommittee member is on sabbatical

Budget and Planning— Nermin Allam, Amber Randolph, Barry Komisaruk

Bylaws and governance—Brian Murphy, John Kettle, John Gunkel

External Affairs—Tracy Tran and Lynnette Mawhinney, with room for one additional person

Facilities and Services— Haesun Kim, Laura Lomas, Miklos Vasarhelyi

EV charging station work is ongoing, no update yet though

Room finder: completed project; trying to figure out how to incorporate individual study spaces on campus as well;

6. Facilities & Services

EV update: EV charging station work is ongoing. An update would be provided at a later meeting.

The space finder (<https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/space-finder>, note updated URL from 12/5/23 NFC minutes) is a completed project. Work is continuing on incorporating individual study spaces similarly. NFC representatives were encouraged to share this information with their faculty units so students can know how to use it and to post it on Canvas.

7.External Affairs

The subcommittee would look into updating the NFC website with the names and bios of current NFC members so that membership is clear.

8.Bylaws & Governance

-Bylaws: motion to approve, Discussion/Vote

A request was made for more time to read the by-laws before a vote or discussion. The NFC should email Brian Murphy with suggested changes or questions about bylaws; his email is bm628@rutgers.edu.

The recommendation was made to table this until the next meeting to give people time to review and consider fully before discussing and making changes.

-University Senate resolution: The majority of NFC members voted to support the resolution from 3/25/22.

Tabled until a later meeting:

9.Faculty Affairs

-Senate update

-Town Hall

10.Budget & Planning

-Any update on contract negotiations

-Exchange program interest

11.New business

12.Adjourn

Miklos A. Vasarhelyi moved to adjourn, and Laura Lomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved.