

**Minutes of the 151st New Brunswick Faculty Council Meeting
December 8, 2006**

Members Present: J. Bliss, R. Boikess, C. Brey, R. Bumby, A. Busia, T. Chase, M. Cotter, H. Davidson, E. David, J. Walkup (for Daniel Fishman), M. Flahive DiNardo, C. Glashausser, N. Glickman, M. Gliserman, M. Gursoy, G. Hall, S. Harrington, G. Herzog, J. Kokini, R. Kubey, C. Kulikowski, R. Lake, P. Leath, J. Markert, G. Mainelis, K. McKeever, J. Miller, M. Page, G. Rendsburg, J. Rubin, L. Schur (for Saul Rubinstein), H. Sackrowitz, R. Schuler, K. Scott, J. Shapiro, C. Sims, K. St. Martin, K. Thompson, R. Wilson, M. Xu

Non-Members Present: M. Carr, P. Furmanski, Z. Galili, R.L. McCormick, B. Qualls, B. Rich, K. Swalagin (Secretary)

1. Call to Order

Council Chairperson Jozef Kokini called the 151st meeting of the New Brunswick Faculty Council (NBFC) to order at 1:25 p.m. in the Busch Campus Center, Room 116ABC, Cook Campus, welcoming all present to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

The day's agenda, and the Minutes of the November 3, 2006 New Brunswick Faculty Council meeting, were approved.

3. Report of the Chair - Jozef Kokini

Chairperson Kokini reminded everyone to sign in. He praised the success of the Rutgers football team. He then introduced President McCormick, whom he said would report on articulation and transfer agreements, and on proposals for the merger of Rutgers, UMDNJ, and NJIT.

4. Administrative Report - President Richard L. McCormick and Executive Vice President Philip Furmanski

President McCormick and Executive Vice President Furmanski reported, and responded to questions, on what were docketed as "Current State and Future Initiatives of Rutgers University."

President McCormick first spoke on articulation and transfer agreements, commenting on:

- the history and numbers of transfer students at Rutgers
- the several-decades-old process of articulation agreements, which works well on the whole
- the drive by county and community colleges to have instituted a policy which would require that a student who completes an associate's degree would, if admitted to Rutgers, receive full credit for all courses previously taken (with a few exceptions), as well as confirmation by Rutgers of completion of all lower-division general education requirements
- Rutgers' opposition to such a policy
- two possible pathways for this issue's resolution, through an agreed-upon statement of principles by all of the colleges and universities involved, or through legislation that would essentially mandate the policy and which would give to a separate body the authority to mediate disputes and make determinations.

Interim Vice President for Undergraduate Education Barry Qualls also spoke to the issue, making comments on:

- discussions with the state assembly and legislators
- efforts to explain to the state that full, seamless transfer of credits cannot be mandated without first addressing the preparation issue
- inherent differences between the kinds of courses offered at a research university and those offered at many county colleges.

McCormick and Qualls then gave responses to questions on the issue, including:

- The proposal calls for the transfer of credits as well as the prerequisites.
- We hope that successful transfer students now at Rutgers could be recruited to speak to the legislature and vouch for the fact that a course they took elsewhere would not have worked at Rutgers.
- Rutgers' is a "minority of one" in opposition to the proposal.
- Only the credits transfer; the grades and grade point average do not.
- Distinctions exist regarding which prerequisites are and are not acceptable even within Rutgers own system.
- There are several ways in which the admission system could be affected due to issues of preparation, math, and advance placement, and differences in policies and practices at institutions other than Rutgers.

President McCormick and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Furmanski then spoke about proposals to merge Rutgers, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). They commented on various aspects of the proposals, including:

- discussions on the subject which took place in 2002-2003, and improvements in the current proposals as compared to the earlier one
- recognition that there are multiple models that could work
- recognition that there are numerous voices and constituencies that should be heard on the matter
- McCormick's setting forth of some goals and principles involved, with academic excellence being at the top of the list, and including financing, and some autonomy of governance
- where the proposals stand, and what might happen
- the need for agreement on what would happen in Newark and Camden under any merger model
- discussion of pros and cons of medical schools and hospitals
- political factors and influences.

President McCormick, Executive Vice President Furmanski, and the Faculty Council members then discussed various elements of the issue at length in Committee of the Whole. Chairperson Kokini endorsed Greg Herzog's suggestion that colleagues on the faculty or in the administration of UMDNJ be invited to speak with the Council. Paul Leath suggested setting up an ad hoc committee to watchdog and bring recommendations on the issue. Furmanski said that, whenever this matter comes to the board, they will want to know the faculty's thoughts.

[View President McCormick's testimony before the Lesniak-Caraballo Task Force on Higher Education online at http://www.president.rutgers.edu/statement_110906.shtml. View the NBFC response to the 2002 Vagelos Commission proposal on the merger online at <http://nbfc.rutgers.edu/NBFCresponse.htm>.]

5. Discussion of School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) Bylaws

SAS Acting Executive Dean Ziva Galili summarized a November 20, 2006 draft of the Bylaws of the School of Arts and Sciences, which had been distributed via e-mail to the NBFC members before the meeting. Extensive discussion followed regarding the process which yielded the draft bylaws, general principles and structure of the bylaws and SAS itself, and some specific elements of the bylaws. Michael Carr and Barry Qualls also spoke to various aspects of the bylaws.

6. Old Business

There was no old business.

7. New Business

Charles Glashausser suggested that one of the Council's committees draft a response and/or resolution on the articulation and transfer issue, noting that the Council should issue a statement about the matter. Chairperson Kokini and Martha Cotter said that could be referred to a standing committee.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth Swalagin