

Minutes of the 174th New Brunswick Faculty Council Meeting

February 5, 2010

Members Present: *Boikess, Clarke, Cooper, Cotter, Crowley, Gerhard, Janes, Jiang, Larrier, Li, McKeever, Markert, Nepomnyaschy, Panayotatos, Reed, Rodenburg, Sackrowitz, St. John, Schneider, Schurman, Schwarzschild, Shapiro, Szatrowski, Thompson, Weber, Werlen, Wiggins, Wilson, Windsor, Yang, Zervigon*

1. Call to Order – Robert Wilson, NBFC Chairperson

Council Chairperson Robert Wilson called the 174th meeting of the New Brunswick Faculty Council (NBFC) to order at 1:13 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2010 in Traves Hall in the Douglass Student Center.

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The current meeting agenda was approved, and the Minutes of the November 20, 2009 meeting were approved.

3. Administrative Report – Philip Furmanski, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Furmanski reported on the status of the University. He noted that the budget situation is dire. Recisions may be necessary for the current fiscal year, and next year there is a 20-30% shortfall in the state budget that will have to be closed. The new governor, Chris Christie, appears to recognize the need for training and education in this difficult economic climate. On the bright side, Rutgers is doing very well in research support. The dollar value of all funded grants is up by about 25% from last year. Dr. Furmanski noted that Rutgers brings in more research dollars than all other NJ colleges combined. He also highlighted the new Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health as a major initiative that is going forward despite the budget issues. Dr. Peter Gillies was recently hired to direct this institute.

Dr. Furmanski then addressed questions from the council. He was asked about the progress that has been made toward getting the state to give back the money it collects as a “tax” on out of state students. Dr. Furmanski stated that the state government is going to give back 100% of this tax this year. The statute allowing the state to collect this tax is still in force, NJ is just choosing not to exercise it.

Dr. Furmanski was asked whether the numbers he had cited about grants received by Rutgers included grants received by UMDNJ. He replied that those numbers did not include UMDNJ.

Next, Dr. Furmanski was asked about how the transfer of the Rutgers Camden Medical School to Rowan University will affect Rutgers. He noted that the answer to this question was extremely complex. However, Rutgers New Brunswick still hopes to be able to combine with UMDNJ someday. When asked whether Governor Christie was in favor of such a merger, Dr. Furmanski replied that Governor Christie seems to like the idea, but the obstacles, including cost, still remain.

Dr. Fumanski was then asked about the possibility of offering Associate's Degrees. It was noted that Rutgers used to do this. Many of these programs were unique, could not be offered by area community colleges, and were necessary for job training. He replied that Rutgers is studying this idea, but has not yet made a decision. He noted that it is well recognized that Rutgers does not handle non-traditional students well, and these types of programs would help in that regard.

Finally, Dr. Furmanski was then asked whether the budget situation would have any impact on the redevelopment of the Livingston Campus. He noted that the money allocated to this project is separate from the operating budget of the university, and therefore would not be impacted. Also, the redevelopment of Livingston is expected to increase the University's revenue by bringing in more students, especially MBA students.

4. Committee reports

Student Affairs Committee (SAC) Ken McKeever, Chair:

Professor McKeever presented the council with a written report on the subject of allowing the Navy to establish an ROTC program at Rutgers. The SAC committee recommended overwhelmingly that Rutgers allow the Navy to establish this program. Some members of the Council voiced reservations on principle. By a vote of 19 in favor, 3 opposed, 6 abstaining, the Council approved the following resolution:

The New Brunswick Faculty Council recommends that the University mover forward with re-establishing Naval ROTC at Rutgers.

Curriculum, Teaching, and Honors Committee (CTHC) – Jocelyn Crowley, Co-Chair:

Consideration of the affiliation of Rutgers with the Servicemember's Opportunity College has let to discussion of support services available to non-traditional students. At Professor Crowley's request, Professor Susan Schurman, discussed such services available in New Brunswick.

5. Presentation by John Asprey and Matt Cordeiro , Chair, Rutgers University Student Assembly:

Mr. Asprey and Mr. Cordeiro spoke about plans for RUSA to incorporate and apply for Special Student Organization (SSO) status. SSO status would allow them to receive funding in the same way that the Targum and NJPIRG receive money, as a line item on each student's term bill. Students would have the option to opt out of the program. This would allow RUSA to have a steady stream of funding, with which they could hire a staff person to give them better institutional memory. RUSA asked for the Council's advice in drafting a concept plan to be presented to the University Senate.

6. Old business.

There was no old business to report.

7. New Business:

Two questions were raised. The first concerned changing the grading system to allow offering minus and A+ grades. It was noted that this has been tried several times in the past, and each time the students protested that it would lower their grades and was not passed. The second question was whether there were any university resources available to help faculty implement a resolution passed by the University Senate Faculty Caucus calling for all course syllabi to be posted on the web. Dr. Furmanski noted that there are resources available to help faculty write the syllabi, but it is up to each department to maintain their websites and post the syllabi.

8. Adjournment:

Chairperson Wilson reminded the Council that the next meeting will be held on Friday, April 2, 2010 in Multipurpose Room C of the Cook Campus Center. Wilson then adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rodenburg

Acting Recording Secretary

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

for a

NEW BRUNSWICK CURRICULUM LIAISON COMMITTEE

This Committee, to be called New Brunswick Curriculum Liaison Committee, should consist its Chair, the Dean of Instruction and Chair of the Curriculum Committee of each Academic unit in New Brunswick (including Business and Nursing), as well as one representative of each of the area divisions of the School of Arts and Sciences. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by and report to the Vice President for Undergraduate Education.

The Committee should not need to approve every course approved by an academic unit faculty on the Campus.

There should be an open web site where all courses and curricula that are being considered, or have recently been approved by the faculty in all NB Academic units (or taught on the NB Campus) shall be listed. All Committee members and all academic departments should be notified of all such new and proposed courses as soon as they appear, and any Committee member may flag any possible problematic listing(s).

The Committee will consider all such flagged courses for approval. No such flagged course shall be offered until approved. In the event such an unapproved course is offered the student credit hours for that course shall not accrue to that unit for the purposes of "All Funds Budgeting" until it has been so approved.

Committee members may also flag courses that have been existence for a year or more for consideration by the Committee, but there shall be no penalty involved unless and until the course is subsequently disapproved by the Committee.

Introduction to the Draft Academic Integrity Policy
Martha A. Cotter, Chair
Academic Integrity Committee

The draft Academic Integrity Policy was produced by an ad-hoc committee of students, faculty, staff, and administrators from all three Rutgers campuses appointed in Fall 2008 by Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Philip Furmanski. The proposed policy is meant to replace the current Interim Academic Integrity Policy, which in turn replaced the previous Academic Integrity Policy written in the late 1980's and widely perceived to be overly complex, opaque, and outdated.

The Academic Integrity Committee's goals in designing the proposed policy are:

- to create academic integrity policies and procedures which are more transparent, less complex, less onerous for faculty, and more equitable for students.
- to give students a substantially increased role in and responsibility for the academic integrity policy and procedures.
- to foster a stronger culture of academic integrity on our campuses.

The proposed policy retains a number of the basic features of the Interim Policy.

- Violations of academic integrity are divided into non-separable violations, for which the possible sanctions do not include suspension or expulsion, and separable violations, for which the sanctions may, but need not, include suspension or expulsion. The policies and procedures for handling alleged non-separable violations are different from those for handling separable violations.
 - Allegations of non-separable violations of academic integrity must be handled by the faculty member teaching the course in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, or otherwise supervising the accused student, or by an Academic Integrity Facilitator appointed by the dean of a school or college to handle allegations of non-separable violations of academic integrity not handled by faculty members.
 - Allegations of separable violations of academic integrity must be handled according to the procedures specified in the *University Code of Student Conduct*, which give an accused student who does not accept responsibility for the alleged violation the right to a disciplinary hearing before a panel of students and faculty.
- A student found responsible for either a non-separable or a separable violation of academic integrity may appeal the finding of responsibility and/or the sanction to an appeals committee of students and faculty members.

The major proposed changes to the Interim Policy are:

- introduction of an honor pledge, to be written on all examinations and major assignments, and a requirement that students affirm periodically that they have read and understood the Academic Integrity Policy and will abide by it in all their academic work.
- reduction from four to two levels of violations: separable and non-separable.
- expansion of the list of suggested sanctions for separable violations, including the introduction of the XF (disciplinary F) grade and addition of a number of sanctions appropriate to graduate and professional students.
- addition of a table with many examples of common violations arranged by type and level.

- introduction of the Honor Council, an organization of undergraduate and graduate students from all three Rutgers campuses dedicated to promoting academic integrity. Members of the Honor Council will play a key role in educating students and other members of the University community about academic integrity, as well as a number of roles in the administration of the Academic Integrity Policy.
 - Members will serve on University Hearing Boards and Appeals Committees.
 - *Community Advocates* will be able to serve as the complainant at a disciplinary hearing; i.e., present the case against the respondent.
 - *Student Advocates* will provide information, advice, and assistance to students accused of violating the Academic Integrity Policy.
- change of the name “University Hearing” to “University Academic Integrity Review” for separable academic integrity violations.
- revisions of the review procedures:
 - A faculty member who initiates a complaint will no longer be required to serve as the complainant at an AI Review but will ordinarily have two options: (1) present the case himself or herself, with the assistance of a Campus Adviser if desired, or (2) request that the case be presented by a Community Advocate from the Honor Council. If no suitable Community Advocate is available, an AIF or member of the decanal staff of the accused student’s school or college will serve as the complainant.
 - The accused student could be assisted, if desired, at the Review by a Student Advocate from the Honor Council or by a Campus Adviser and will be permitted to have one, and only one, additional support person present, who may be an attorney. The role of the additional support person will continue to be strictly advisory.
 - The Review Officer who conducts the Review will have to be a member of the Rutgers community, ordinarily a staff or faculty member.
- changes to appeals committees
 - combination of the separate campus appeals committees for non-separable violations and for separable violations into a single appeals committee on each of the three campuses to be called the Campus Academic Integrity Appeals Committee (AIAC). The AIACs will also decide on requests for removal of the X from XF grades.
 - changing the composition of appeals panels for separable violations from one student, one faculty member, and one administrator to two students and one faculty member
- addition of an Appendix (B), which presents a brief overview of the procedures for handling allegations of non-separable and of separable violations.

Major features of the proposed policy are modeled on the academic integrity policies of the University of Maryland and of Penn State University. The proposed procedures for handling non-separable violations of academic integrity are taken largely from the Interim Academic Integrity Policy, which owed a great deal to the proposals of a previous ad-hoc Academic Integrity Committee chaired by Prof. Donald McCabe.

Note: a number of the proposed changes in policies and procedures require changes to the *University Code of Student Conduct*. These changes will have to be approved by the Committee on Student Conduct, as a recommendation to the Vice President for Student Affairs, and then by the Rutgers Board of Governors.