

## **Minutes of the 179th New Brunswick Faculty Council Meeting February 4, 2011**

**Members Present:** R. Boikess, E. Boling, L. Clarke, M. Cotter, D. Fishman, T. Gerhard, M. Gordon, H. Janes, P. Leath, Y. Li, K. McKeever (Chair), L. Nepomnyaschy, D. O'Connor, J. Phillips, D. Redlawsk, J. Reed, L. Rodenburg, H. Sackrowitz, A. St. John, J. Shapiro, G. Springs, T. Szatrowski, J. Theiss, K. Thompson, L. Wiggins, E. Williams, R. Wilson, L. Windsor, T. Yang

**Non-Members Present:** S. G. Abel, P. Furmanski, B. Leech, S. Schurman, T. Stephens, K. Swalagin (Recording Secretary)

### **1. Call to Order - Ken McKeever, NBFC Chairperson**

Council Chairperson Ken McKeever called the 179th meeting of the New Brunswick Faculty Council (NBFC) to order at 1:21 p.m. on Friday, February 4, 2011 in the Rutgers Student Center Graduate Student Lounge, College Avenue Campus. There was no chairperson's report.

### **2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The [current meeting agenda](#), and the [Minutes of the December 10, 2010 NBFC meeting](#) were approved.

### **3. Administrative Report - Philip Furmanski, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Philip Furmanski delivered an administrative report, which included comments on:

- the [New Jersey Higher Education Task Force Report](#), the content of which was Furmanski's primary focus during this administrative report, and, in particular:
  - its acknowledgement that higher education in New Jersey has been disproportionately affected over the last couple of generations in terms of the budget;
  - the structure and organization of higher education in New Jersey;
  - the need for an advocate for higher education in New Jersey, and specifics of the proposal to create the non-cabinet state position for that advocate;
  - how the recommendations of the report may or may not translate into a concrete financial or administrative structure relative to higher education in New Jersey;
- the current and anticipated state-funding situations, and how Rutgers can prepare for the future;
- potential tuition increases and financial aid funding;
- funding differentials for undergraduate and graduate education, and research/grant revenues;
- other states systems of higher education as compared to Rutgers;
- proposals for, and ideas about, restructuring NJ higher education, including UMDNJ and NJIT;
- the concept of research universities, and how that may change in New Jersey as a result of the Task Force report;
- Rutgers' master plan, particularly as it relates to capital improvements;
- due diligence on cancellation of classes due to inclement weather, and whether coursework missed due to cancellation of classes is actually being made up [There was some discussion here of the NBFC taking up this issue, and the possibility of adding a related question to the course evaluations.];and
- the need for earlier notification of class cancellations or campus closings.

### **4. Report on Current Programs and Services for Veterans and Service Members – Stephen G. Abel, Director of Rutgers University Student Veterans Services, and Susan J. Schurman, Coordinator of Veteran Services in New Brunswick**

Colonel Stephen Abel, Director of Rutgers University Student Veterans Services, spoke about various aspects of, and goals for, student veterans services at Rutgers, including three primary missions of:

- increasing enrollment of veterans at Rutgers;
- increasing the persistence rate of those veteran students; and
- increasing the completion rate of those students.

Colonel Abel also commented on related subjects, including:

- Ken McKeever's current evaluation of data on persistence and completion rates of Rutgers veteran students;
- GI Bill benefits and the rates at which those benefits are being used by eligible veteran students;
- efforts to address academic and other issues to help veterans;
- housing options;
- expanded programs and services available in Veterans House on Lafayette Street;
- various challenges to veterans' academic success, and how Rutgers is working to ease those challenges;
- standards for transferring courses to Rutgers; and
- the possible need for flexible application suspense dates for veterans serving abroad who have limited online access.

Abel then responded to various questions related to his presentation and comments.

Susan Schurman, Dean of the University College Community, and Coordinator of Veteran Services in New Brunswick continued the presentation with her comments on subjects including:

- her work with veterans and other nontraditional students;
- formation of a committee, which includes Ken McKeever, the mission of which is to explore ways assist, recruit, and retain veteran students; and
- efforts to improve the flow of Rutgers admission and application information to potential veteran students while they are still in military service, including possibly working with the Department of Defense and Veterans Administration to facilitate that communication [This issue was suggested as a possible charge to an NBFC committee.].

## **5. Fall Athletics Report – Thomas Stephens, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative**

Tom Stephens, Rutgers' NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, presented his annual report to the New Brunswick Faculty Council.

## **6. Committee Reports**

NBFC standing committee chairs reported on their committees' plans, activities, and progress, as follows:

- Academic Standards, Regulations and Admissions Committee - Martha Cotter reported that the University Senate had approved the new academic integrity policy, and that she would be asking for the NBFC's help on implementation of the new policy.
- Curriculum, Teaching, and Honors Committee – Paul Leath invited input on two issues in this committee:
  - the proposed curriculum committee, and
  - best practices for posting of course syllabi.
- Budget and Planning Committee – Joel Shapiro said that the bylaws posted on the NBFC website were outdated, and that a committee should investigate that. Ken Swalagin said that he had just emailed Shapiro the revised bylaws and the minutes of the meeting at which they were adopted. Shapiro also suggested that the issue of whether the bylaws restriction limiting most NBFC membership to tenure-track faculty should be lifted.

## **7. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **8. New Business**

There was no new business.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Minutes Written and Submitted by:

Ken Swalagin  
Recording Secretary of the New Brunswick Faculty Council