Meeting of the Camden Faculty Council
Tentative Minutes
September 20, 2016
Faculty Lounge, Armitage Hall, Campus Center, 12:15pm-1:30pm

Attending: Perry Dane

Members: Janice Beitz, Marla Blunt-Carter, Bruce Garrity, Rich Harris, Paul More, Sam Rabinowitz, Andy Shankman, Carol Singley, and Julie Still

Administration: Mike Palis and Loree Jones

Absent: Danny Bubb

Agenda
1. Approval of the minutes
2. Introduction of new and returning members and other participants to Council meetings
3. Chair’s comments, if any
4. Other announcements, if any
5. Report by the Chancellor or other member of the administration
6. Follow-up discussion of the Council’s May 2016 “Statement of Best Practices for Better Integrating Part-Time Lecturers Into the Academic Community at Rutgers University–Camden”
7. Discussion of potential “big questions” for 2016-2017. Possibilities might include:
   a. Nurturing student intellectual engagement
   b. The campus built environment during a period of potential expansion
   c. Rutgers University–Camden and the City of Camden
   d. ??
8. New business
9. Adjournment

1. Approval of the minutes
A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Camden Faculty Council (CFC) on May 12, 2016 was raised, seconded, and approved unanimously.

2. Introduction of new and returning members and other participants to Council meetings
The CFC welcomed new members Marla Blunt-Carter (SSW) and Rich Harris (Social Sciences), who is attending during Naomi Marmorstein’s leave in fall 2016. Cyril Reade was also welcomed. Now that Andy Lees has retired, Cyril will be attending as a de facto, non-voting representative of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

3. Chair’s comments
Perry Dane looks forward to another productive year and held further comments until discussion later in the meeting of the “Statement of Best Practices for Better Integrating Part-Time Lecturers Into the Academic Community at Rutgers University–Camden.”

4. Other announcements, if any
There were no further announcements.
5. **Report by the Chancellor or other member of the administration**

Mike Palis, provost, provided updates on the Middle States Reaccreditation process, new funding initiatives for faculty members, and the International Conference on Cuba. Loree Jones, chief of staff, provided updates on the strategic plan and events on campus.

**Middle States Reaccreditation Process**
The decennial reaccreditation process by the Middle States Association is currently underway. Rutgers University is being evaluated as a system on the basis of seven standards. Rutgers University–Camden is well represented on the various working groups, and Mike Palis co-chairs the Committee on Institutional Effectiveness. With input from the deans, department chairs, and faculty, a sub-study report will be drafted by the end of December and shared with the campus community. The Middle States Association will make site visits next year.

**New Funding Initiatives for Faculty**
Rutgers University–Camden has benefitted from the President’s Initiative on Henry Rutgers Term Chairs and Professorships. Eric Chwang of the Department of Philosophy and Religion is the new bioethics chair for a term of three years. In the coming year, the School of Nursing and the College of Arts and Sciences will each recruit for Henry Rutgers Professorships. The Henry Rutgers initiative is expected to continue for at least the next five years.

Mike Palis recently announced the Provost’s Fund for Research. The cross disciplinary initiative seeks to foster interaction and cross-fertilization of ideas between departments and schools. Mike Palis encouraged faculty members to apply for the four awards of up to $15K each.

Catalyst grants (eight awards of up to $5K each) are also being offered. These grants seek to support primarily junior faculty members working on new initiatives. However, senior faculty members embarking on new areas of endeavor are also encouraged to apply.

These funding opportunities are in addition to the university-wide Research Council grants.

**International Conference on Cuba**
As part of an ongoing process to renew a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the University of Havana, an international conference on Cuba will be held at Rutgers University–Camden on Oct. 31 to Nov. 3. The conference will bring together dignitaries and scholars to flesh out in more detail what the partnership will look like. The MOU is university-wide. Rutgers University–Camden will collaborate with the University of Havana on five areas: computational science, community leadership, health, arts and humanities, and environmental science. In March 2017, a small group of university administration and faculty will travel to Cuba to continue the collaboration, to learn more about specific projects, and to visit additional research centers over which the University of Havana has purview.

**Update on the Strategic Plan**
Implementation of Rutgers University–Camden’s strategic plan continues. Faculty research is being fostered by additional funding opportunities and by two hires in the Office of Sponsored Research to handle grants. A new branding initiative will be launched soon as the result of work with the marketing and communications firm Lipman Hearne. Enrollment has increased this year due to the widely successful Bridging the Gap program. The program is being extended to students transferring to Rutgers University–Camden from Camden County College. Data dashboards to support student success are being developed. CFC members reinforced the need for faculty to have access to student transcripts.
Upcoming Events
Chancellor Haddon will hold a Town Hall meeting on September 27 for faculty, students, and staff. The 250th anniversary year of Rutgers University will conclude on November 10 with a number of special events that include distinguished alumni. Invitations will be sent out and the faculty is encouraged to participate. As part of the celebration, the Stedman Gallery is hosting “George Segal in Black and White,” an exhibition of works by the renowned American sculptor and Rutgers graduate.

6. Follow-up discussion of the Council’s May 2016 “Statement of Best Practices for Better Integrating Part-Time Lecturers into the Academic Community at Rutgers University–Camden”
At the meeting in May, the CFC passed the resolution entitled “Statement of Best Practices for Better Integrating Part-Time Lecturers into the Academic Community at Rutgers University–Camden.” Since then, Perry Dane circulated the resolution to a variety of administrators, deans, department chairs, and chairs of academic programs for their responses and suggestions. With the exception of Chancellor Haddon, Perry has received little comment and asked if the CFC would like to follow-up more formally by meeting with the deans. Some CFC members indicated that the resolution was being discussed at department meetings. Mike Palis indicated that Chancellor Haddon has put him in charge of thinking through the CFC’s recommendations and how they may possibly be implemented. Some current efforts by individual departments to better integrate PTLs (e.g. luncheons for PTLs, inclusion in department meetings, evening orientation sessions, etc.) were also discussed. A suggestion was made to create a website for PTLs that will welcome, support, and update them. A website could put all information in one place and be accessed conveniently at any time and from any place.

7. Discussion of potential “big questions” for 2016-2017
Time did not permit for much discussion of the topic of big questions. Perry will query the CFC by email to determine if they would like to continue considering big questions this year and what those big questions might be.

9. New business
Andy Shankman, faculty representative to the Rutgers University–Camden Board of Directors gave a brief report on the Board’s meeting on September 13. The Board has new leadership this year (Dudley Rivers, chair, and Lora Fong, co-chair); two new members (Greg Bender and Jim Dougherty); and, two new student representatives (Michael Van Stine, graduate representative, and Parth Lalakia, undergraduate representative). Dudley Rivers expressed interest in wanting an active board and articulated a focused leadership plan.

There was no further new business.

11. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

Next Meeting:
November 1, 2016, Executive Private Dining Room, Campus Center

Minutes prepared and submitted by,
Michele Robinson
Secretary to the Camden Faculty Council