Meeting of the Camden Faculty Council
Tentative Minutes
November 1, 2016
Private Dining Room, Campus Center, 12:15pm-1:30pm

Attending:
Chair: Perry Dane

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

Administration: Loree Jones

Absent: Danny Bubb, Andy Shankman, and Julie Still

Agenda
1. Approval of the minutes
2. Chair’s comments, if any
3. Other announcements, if any
4. Report by the Chancellor or other member of the administration
5. 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. ??
6. New business
7. Adjournment

1. Approval of the minutes
After brief discussion, a motion to approve amended minutes of the meeting of the Camden Faculty Council (CFC) on September 20, 2016 was raised, seconded, and approved unanimously.

2. Chair’s comments
In context of the upcoming presidential election, Perry Dane commented on the surprising political polarity among academics he had interacted with at recent conferences and their unwillingness to understand and empathize with opposing points of view.

Not having received much formal feedback to the CFC’s resolution entitled “Statement of Best Practices for Better Integrating Part-Time Lecturers into the Academic Community at Rutgers University–Camden,” Perry asked Council members if they had received informal feedback. Paul More announced that the Faculty of Arts and Sciences has awarded four teaching grants of $500 each to PTLs. He and other CFC members were encouraged and would like to see this implemented by the other schools. Ongoing efforts by the schools to engage PTLs were discussed (e.g. orientations, inclusion in department meetings, teaching awards, etc.). The importance of ongoing effort to engage not only new PTLs, but also returning PTLs, was emphasized. Developing a website for PTLs that contains needed information in one place would be extremely helpful to PTLs, particularly since they may need to access information during off-hours and from a distance. Recognizing contributions made by PTLs, creating a sense of community, and increasing supports may help reduce turnover.

3. Other announcements, if any
There were no other announcements.
4. **Report by the Chancellor or other member of the administration**  
Loree Jones, chief of staff, provided an update on the strategic plan.

Rutgers University–Camden supports Camden Rising, the revitalization of Camden, in numerous ways. Among them are construction and renovation. Contributing to development of the “Eds and Meds” corridor, the Nursing and Science Building is well under way, and the Joint Health Sciences Campus project is expected to break ground this summer. In conjunction with Cooper’s Ferry Partnership, Rutgers University–Camden has obtained federal funds for improving Cooper Street’s streetscape. As part of that initiative, the Alumni House is now open. Recent parking changes at Rutgers University–Camden are also supportive of development projects in the city.

In support of faculty research, internal funding initiatives are growing. Proposals for the Provost’s Fund for Research and for Catalyst Grants were due October 31. In addition, the Chancellor’s Office has a fund for projects that support strategic initiatives. A formalized application process is expected later in the academic year.

Events at Rutgers University–Camden foster intellectual engagement and visibility. A number of events are in progress or upcoming.

Provost Mike Palis is absent from the CFC meeting because he is hosting the international multi-day Cuba Conference. Attendees include public officials, administrators, and faculty. A memorandum of understanding between Rutgers University and the University of Havana was signed at the conference to facilitate research and collaboration between the two institutions. The conference received wide local media coverage.

November 10 will mark the end of a year-long celebration of Rutgers University’s 250th anniversary with a host of festivities. As part of a Day of Revolutionary Thinking, 21 distinguished alumni will come to campus. They will lecture in classes and be inducted into Rutgers–Camden Finest, an assembly of alumni whose accomplishments have been particularly impactful.

President Barchi will hold separate Town Hall sessions on November 29 for students and for faculty and staff.

5. **Discussion of potential “big questions” for 2016-2017**  
Three potential “big questions” for the CFC to consider carry over from last year: 1. nurturing student intellectual engagement; 2. the campus built environment during a period of potential expansion; 3. Rutgers and the City of Camden. A suggestion was also made to consider faculty well-being and development. Student evaluation of faculty teaching (specifically the validity and use of these evaluations) falls within this big question.

Perry Dane will circulate an electronic poll for voting members of the CFC to choose which “big questions” to focus on this year.

6. **New business**

There are four learning platforms (Canvas, Sakai, E-College, and Blackboard), and faculty members would like to know if there is a plan for simplification and cost reduction by using one digital platform.

The process for evaluating deans and associate deans was raised and suggested as an agenda item for a future CFC meeting.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.
Next Meeting:
December 15, 2016 (Thursday), 11 am, Private Dining Room, Campus Center

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