Meeting of the Camden Faculty Council
Minutes
March 28, 2017
Private Dining Room, Campus Center, 9:30am – 10:45am

Attending:
Chair:  Perry Dane

Members:  Janice Beitz, Danny Bubb, Bruce Garrity, Paul More, Sam Rabinowitz, Andy Shankman, Carol Singley, and Julie Still

Administration:  Loree Jones and Mike Palis

Absent:  Marla Blunt-Carter and Rich Harris

Agenda
1.  Approval of the minutes
2.  Review of meeting schedule for the rest of the academic year
3.  Chair’s comments, if any
4.  Other announcements, if any
5.  Report by the Chancellor or other member of the administration
6.  Consideration of By-Laws Amendment attached
7.  Continued discussion of PTL integration into the academic community, including consideration of President Barchi’s attached response to the University Senate resolution on PTLs.
8.  Discussion of “big questions” for 2016-2017
   a. Nurturing student intellectual engagement
   b. Faculty Advancement and Evaluation
9.  New business
10.  Adjournment

1.  Approval of the minutes
A motion to approve minutes of the meeting of the Camden Faculty Council (CFC) on February 28, 2017 was raised, seconded, and approved unanimously.

2.  Chair’s comments
Perry Dane noted highlights from the most recent meeting of the University Senate.
First, the University Senate met as a whole community to informally discuss questions of academic freedom and free speech and whether there should be an effort to produce a document on academic freedom and free speech within the Rutgers community similar to those produced decades ago by Yale University and recently by the University of Chicago. As a quasi-public university, however, Rutgers is bound by the First Amendment in ways that Yale and the University of Chicago are not. University Senate members expressed a wide range of views. Since views of the matter are evolving and differ with respect to the specific responsibilities of academic communities, Perry suggested that having such a discussion at Rutgers–Camden would be interesting and worthwhile.
Second, Kenneth Cop, executive director of public safety / chief of university police, gave a presentation. Perry asked Chief Cop what is being done to insure safety at Rutgers University–Camden along the corridor between Cooper Street and the Nursing and Science Building. Chief Cop indicated that plans are being developed. In addition to public safety, Perry also suggested that as Rutgers University–Camden extends its footprint, it will be increasingly important to clearly demarcate elements of the campus both architecturally and aesthetically.
3. Other announcements, if any
There were no other announcements.

4. Discussion of meeting schedule for the rest of the academic year
The last meeting of the semester is scheduled for May 2 at 9:30am. CFC members asked if this meeting could be held at a later time. Schedules of the administrators and room availability will be checked to see if this is possible.

5. Report by the Chancellor or other member of the administration
Mike Palis, provost, provided updates on the Chancellor’s Committee on Institutional Equity and Diversity (CIED), Student Success Initiatives, Promotion and Tenure, and the CFC’s “Resolution and Statement on the Merger of the Rutgers Graduate School–New Brunswick and the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (adopted Jan. 20, 2017).”

Chancellor’s Committee on Institutional Equity and Diversity (CIED)
Based on the CIED’s recommendation, Rutgers University–Camden has become an institutional member of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD), an organization with 90 other member institutions. Membership provides networking opportunities and resources (online and in-person) for faculty development. Mike Palis encouraged all faculty (full-time and part-time), post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students to create accounts and utilize the resource.

The Chancellor’s and President’s offices have approved funding for the mini-grants program for underrepresented, full-time faculty at Rutgers University–Camden. Mike Palis pointed out that the definition of underrepresented is broad and encompasses more than race and ethnicity. For example, women in STEM fields will also be considered. Questions about the program should be sent to CIED member Bill Whitlow.

Student Success Initiatives
The Raptor Impact Retreat on March 24 focused on experiential learning. Data presented indicate that undergraduates at Rutgers–Camden are doing a lot of research but are lagging in internships. Data show where resources need to be focused. To aid that effort and make recommendations to the chancellor, the Experiential Learning Council, which has campus-wide representation, will be reconvened.

The search firm Witt/Kieffer has been engaged to open a search to fill the vice chancellor for student success position previously held by Julie Amon. The position will focus on student success and experiential learning. The search committee is chaired by Kris Lindenmeyer, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences and the graduate school, and Craig Westman, vice chancellor for enrollment management. CFC members recommended that student success be defined beyond quantifiable metrics such as graduation rates and retention. Non-quantifiable elements of student success such as intellectual engagement, preparation for careers, and instilling a love for lifelong learning should also be included.

Promotion and Tenure
Mike Palis encouraged attendance at the American Association of University Professors-American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO (AAUP-AFT) workshop on promotion and tenure on March 31. It is important for faculty to know the rules and how to prepare from the beginning. Mike Palis represents Rutgers University–Camden on the University’s Promotion Review Committee (PRC).

CFC’s “Resolution and Statement on the Merger of the Rutgers Graduate School–New Brunswick and the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (adopted Jan. 20, 2017).”
Merger of the Rutgers Graduate School–New Brunswick and the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences was approved by the University Senate with the name of The Rutgers School of Graduate Studies. Since there are also graduate schools at Camden and Newark, the CFC objects to the name. Mike Palis read the CFC’s
“Resolution and Statement on the Merger of the Rutgers Graduate School–New Brunswick and the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (adopted Jan. 20, 2017)” to the Board of Governors’ Committee of Academic Affairs. The CFC’s objections were noted, but the committee endorsed the merger and name, and it is moving to the Board of Governors at large, which meets on April 6, for final consideration.

The proposed amendment to the by-laws of the CFC (amended to these minutes) acknowledges that members may need to take leave from the CFC for reasons other than standard academic leave. Therefore, leaves from the CFC totaling one year in a three-year term are proposed. A motion to approve the amendment was raised, seconded, and approved unanimously.

7. Continued discussion of PTL integration into the academic community, including consideration of President Barchi’s attached response to the University Senate resolution on PTLs.
Like the CFC, the University Senate also produced a statement on greater integration of PTLs (Charge S-1409, Greater Integration of Contingent Faculty in the Rutgers Community). The statement was sent to administration, and President Barchi replied (letter to Kenneth Swalagin, executive secretary of the University Senate, dated 3/6/17 and amended to these minutes). President Barchi thanked the Senate’s Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee (FPAC) for their work. He indicated that many of FPAC’s recommendations had been included in the most recently negotiated agreements with the AAUP-AFT and that he has asked Vivian Fernandez to look into the possibility of developing a dedicated page on the UHR website for PTLs. Many other recommendations (i.e. “certain voting rights, office space, involvement in department and school conferences and teaching workshops, and eligibility for teaching awards”), however, have been adopted by some departments. These decisions, President Barchi suggests, “are the prerogative of the faculty in those departments.”

At Rutgers University–Camden, Perry Dane has spoken with the administration and deans about the CFC’s resolution that seeks to provide additional opportunities for PTLs. Although the deans agree in principle with many items, they defer to the departments for decision making. Therefore, Perry would like to continue the discussion with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Camden (FASC) Faculty Senate. Perry will contact Janet Golden, president of the FASC Faculty Senate.

8. Discussion of “big questions” for 2016-2017
   a. Nurturing student intellectual engagement
   b. Faculty Advancement and Evaluation
Time did not permit for discussion. Perry Dane suggested that in order to address more long-term big questions effectively, discussions need to take place outside of CFC meetings and will be under the purview of next year’s CFC chair.

9. New business
CFC members brought the cost and administrative burden of services (e.g. facilities maintenance) and systems (particularly with respect to grants (e.g. ERIB and RAPSS)) to the attention of the administration and requested a review. Loree Jones, chief of staff, requested that faculty members email her with concerns, questions, and suggestions.

10. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Next Meeting:
May 2, 2017 (Tuesday), 3:30 pm, Location TBD
Minutes prepared and submitted by,
Michele Robinson
Secretary to the Camden Faculty Council