Meeting of the Camden Faculty Council
Tentative Minutes
January 31, 2017
Private Dining Room, Campus Center, 9:30am – 10:45am

Attending:
Chair: Perry Dane

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

Administration: Loree Jones, Mike Palis, and Craig Westman

Absent: Danny Bubb

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. General education and balancing “the need for disciplinary autonomy against the requirements for additional offerings.”
6. Class attendance, participation, and online access for student finalizing financial aid arrangements
7. Preliminary discussion of “big questions” for 2016-2017
   a. Nurturing student intellectual engagement
   b. Faculty Advancement and Evaluation
8. New business
9. Adjournment

1. Approval of the minutes
A motion to approve minutes of the meeting of the Camden Faculty Council (CFC) on December 15, 2016 was raised, seconded, and approved unanimously.

2. Chair’s comments
On January 20, 2017, the University Senate approved merger of the legacy graduate schools at New Brunswick and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) with the proposed name of The Rutgers School of Graduate Studies. As a member of the University Senate’s Governance and Structure Committee, Perry Dane proposed an amendment on the floor of the Senate to create a different name that would reflect this school as one of three graduate schools within the Rutgers University system. The amendment was voted down.

With graduate schools also at Camden and Newark, the proposed name does not encompass the totality of graduate studies at Rutgers University. This specific instance also raises the issue of naming conventions more broadly within the university system. A motion was raised, seconded, and passed unanimously by the CFC to develop a statement to adopt Perry Dane’s amendment and to add to it the Council’s desire for an alternative name and for discussions by administration toward resolving satisfactorily the question of the school’s name. The statement will be put to an electronic vote.

Addendum: Having authorized an online vote, the Camden Faculty Council approved the resolution “Statement and Resolution on the Merger of the Rutgers Graduate School–New Brunswick and the Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences” in January 2017. The full text is appended to these minutes.
3. Other announcements, if any
There were no other announcements.

4. 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) and on Student Success Initiatives. Craig Westman, associate provost for enrollment management, gave a presentation on the Bridging the Gap Program and on creating a One-Stop Shop for students.

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 member institutions. Membership provides networking opportunities and resources, both online and in-person, for faculty development. The resources are available to all faculty (full-time and part-time), post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students. A portal will be sent out via email to access the resources.

Student Success Initiatives
The Educational Advisory Board Student Success Collaborative, a comprehensive student success initiative, will be rolled out at Rutgers University–Camden this spring. New software, which contains predictive analytics, will provide a means to track student progress more closely and to develop appropriate interventions. Faculty will have access to the software which will be introduced at the Student Success Retreat on March 24. A program manager has been hired to coordinate the initiative across the campus and to add functionality as needed at Rutgers University–Camden.

Experiential learning, a priority of Rutgers University–Camden’s strategic plan, is the focus of this year’s Student Success Retreat. An Experiential Learning Advisory Council is in place to support all of the experiential learning opportunities at Rutgers University–Camden, to move them forward, and to foster collaboration between the various offices. A program coordinator, reporting to Tyler Hoffman, associate provost for academic programs and engaged civic learning, has been hired to support the experiential learning initiative.

Bridging the Gap Program
Rolled out in fall 2016, the Bridging the Gap program, which separates need-based from merit-based scholarship aid, has succeeded in strengthening access for students to a world-class Rutgers degree. Enrollment has increased, particularly among first-time, first-generation students. To serve this population, greater numbers of first-year math and English courses are needed in addition to the upper level courses needed by transfer students.

For the incoming fall 2017 class, a few changes have been made to Bridging the Gap. The qualifying adjusted gross income ranges have been modified, and the program has been extended to students at our partner institution Camden County College. Discussions are taking place with other community college partners to offer the program to their students.

In response to a question on Increasing enrollment and capacity at Rutgers University–Camden, Craig Westman responded that a new building is coming online (Nursing and Science Building) and software to help manage growth is being evaluated.

One-Stop Shop
Deloitte has completed a business process review analysis for Rutgers University–Camden as well as a feasibility study for a one-stop shop for financial and other services. The report should be released in late February.

A one-stop shop will house a variety of offices and services (e.g. admissions, financial aid, student accounts, parking, cashiering, ID cards, etc.) in one area to facilitate service to students and to vet issues collaboratively.
By providing a solid resource for handling students’ non-academic issues, a goal of a one-stop shop is to allow faculty to focus on teaching and research rather than on vetting non-academic issues for students.

5. General education and balancing “the need for disciplinary autonomy against the requirements for additional offerings”
   It is the purview of the schools to determine curriculum for particular academic majors. General Education courses are not within a specific discipline. Rather, they teach broad-based skills in various themes. A department may require graduation requirements for particular majors but not particular General Education courses.

6. Class attendance, participation, and online access for students finalizing financial aid arrangements
   The CFC expressed frustration and concern over the policy of deregistering students from classes for non-payment. The CFC agrees strongly that students should not be dropped from course rosters and Sakai for non-payment. Deregistering students impedes academic progress and creates embarrassment for the few who will continue to attend class and ask their professors and the library for access to online resources. While course credit and degrees could be placed on financial hold, the ability to continue studies should not. The Student Success Collaborative has been designed as a tool to identify students’ needs earlier and to develop appropriate interventions.

Sam Rabinowitz indicated that the Student Affairs Committee of the Rutgers University Senate has considered this issue in December 2013 (“Response to Charge S-1211 on Deregistration for Non-payment of Term Bills”) and in January 2016 (“Response to Charge S-1507 on Deregistration for Non-payment of Term Bills, Including for Online Courses”).

7. Discussion of potential “big questions” for 2016-2017
   Perry Dane requested that CFC members consider chairing one of the committees considering this year’s “big questions”: Nurturing Student Intellectual Engagement and Faculty Advancement and Evaluation. Time did not permit for any further discussion.

8. New business
   There was no further new business.

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

Next Meeting:
February 28, 2017 (Tuesday), 9:30 am, Campus Center, Private Dining Room

Minutes prepared and submitted by,
Michele Robinson
Secretary to the Camden Faculty Council
Statement and Resolution on the
Merger of the
Rutgers Graduate School – New Brunswick and the
Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Adopted by the Camden Faculty Council
January 2017

Rutgers University currently has four graduate schools of arts and sciences: the Graduate School - Camden, the Graduate School - New Brunswick, the Graduate School – Newark, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (contained within Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences and operating in both New Brunswick and Newark). The Graduate School – New Brunswick and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences have proposed to merge. The University Senate approved the outlines of the merger at its meeting on January 20, 2017 and the proposal will in due course be considered formally by the central Rutgers administration and then by the Board of Governors.

The almost universal practice at Rutgers has been that, when the University has more than one school of the same general type, each of those schools has a name that distinguishes it from the others and no one of those schools simply bears an "unmarked" name. In some cases, the names of schools are distinguished by a campus designation, as with the Rutgers Business School – New Brunswick & Newark and the School of Business – Camden. In other instances, the University has named individual schools after benefactors or other distinguished persons.

This naming convention reflects important principles, particularly the identity of Rutgers as a multi-campus university and the parity of its four major academic units. It also demonstrates a commitment to comity and mutual respect among the diverse parts of this large and complex but unified academic community. Exceptions to this convention should require extraordinary justifications. For example, the School of Arts and Sciences on the New Brunswick campus can legitimately claim pride of place as the most direct successor to the very first academic unit founded in 1766 of what was eventually to become Rutgers University.

Nevertheless, the current plan is for the new school formed from the merger of the Graduate School – New Brunswick and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to be called simply the “Rutgers School of Graduate Studies,” thus essentially ignoring the existence of separate Rutgers graduate schools on the Camden and Newark campuses.

To some extent, the reluctance of the planners of the merger to adopt a more distinctive name is understandable. For example, naming the new school the Graduate School – New Brunswick and RBHS would admittedly be awkward and unhelpful. But those planners have also
resisted other alternatives, including naming the school after a person (not necessarily a donor) important to the history of graduate education at Rutgers.

We therefore **Resolve** that the Camden Faculty Council, without taking any position on the merits of the planned merger of the Graduate School – New Brunswick and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences,

1. Strongly objects to naming the new merged school the Rutgers School of Graduate Studies without any further denomination.

2. Calls on the university administration and the existing Graduate School–New Brunswick and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to agree on and adopt a name for the merged unit that more accurately reflects that the new school will be only one among the three graduate schools at Rutgers.

3. Urges the Chancellor and Provost and other officers of Rutgers University – Camden to use their own good offices to help advance discussions toward satisfactorily resolving the question of the new school’s name.

4. Directs its Chair to share this resolution with the President of the University, the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Chancellor and Provost of Rutgers University – Camden, the Dean of the Graduate School – Camden, the Deans of the Graduate School – New Brunswick and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and other appropriate officials of Rutgers University and Rutgers University – Camden.