Meeting of the Camden Faculty Council
Minutes
January 29, 2015
Executive Private Dining Room, Campus Center, 12:15pm-1:30pm

Attending:
Chair: Sam Rabinowitz
Members: Perry Dane, Bruce Garrity, Naomi Marmorstein, Judith McCoyd, Paul More, Andrew Shankman, and Carol Singley

Absent: Janice Beitz, Joseph Martin, and Julie Still

Guests: Andrew Lees

I. Old Business

- Minutes from the CFC meetings on 11/20/14 and 12/4/14
- Update on the status of block scheduling at Rutgers-Camden

II. New Business

- Strategic planning committees
- Transfer credit evaluation for students who are military veterans
- Faculty access to unofficial student transcripts
- Resolution to acknowledge the service of now-retired Marianne Gaunt
- Reduction of Robeson Library evening hours

I. OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from the CFC Meetings on 11/20/14 and 12/4/14

A motion was raised, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes from the Camden Faculty Council meetings on 11/20/14 and 12/4/14.

Update on the status of block scheduling at Rutgers-Camden

- The earliest the class schedule will change is fall 2016.
- A survey of students for their input on block scheduling is in the creative process.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Committees

- As Chancellor Haddon indicated in her email to the campus community dated 1/26/15, four committees have been established to advance the shared goals outlined in the strategic plan (Implementation, Research, Marketing/Visibility, and Student Success). In addition, Loree D. Jones has been hired as chief of staff to the chancellor; she will serve on each of the committees in an ex officio capacity, working to help the committees fulfill their goals.
- Once the committees are underway, chairpersons will be invited to CFC meetings on a rotating basis.
- CFC looks forward to meeting with Loree D. Jones to learn more about her role as chief of staff and the potential for collaborating with her.
Transfer Credit Evaluation for Students who are Military Veterans

- Mark Bodrog and Zachary Borden, each military veterans and students at Rutgers-Camden, presented to the Camden Faculty Council the charge made to the Academic Standards, Regulations, and Admissions Committee of the University Senate (S-1414): “Removing Barriers to the Education of Military Veterans.” Through transfer credit for military training and service, they seek to make tuition more affordable for veterans and enable them to return to employment and the community sooner. They also seek to standardize the treatment of veterans throughout the Rutgers system.
  - Rutgers-NB awards 6 elective transfer credits in lieu of ROTC to undergraduate students who received an honorable discharge from the military, while Camden and Newark do not.
    - CFC agreed this should be standard throughout the Rutgers system, whether ROTC is offered or not, and the change should be implemented as soon as possible.
    - CFC advised Bodrog and Borden that forming a campus ad hoc committee could help expedite the process.
- In addition to transfer credit evaluation by Academic Advising, Bodrog and Borden would like academic department chairs to screen for veterans and evaluate military transcripts and experience for possible transfer credit.
  - CFC members agreed there should be a formal process for this conversation to occur and suggested that supporting materials (e.g. syllabi, manuals, textbooks, etc.) and proficiency exams would aid the evaluation process. Veterans Affairs staff members are also available to help department chairs understand military transcripts which are not terribly user-friendly.
  - While transfer credit may not be possible, military veterans have experience and skills that faculty can and should utilize to enhance the academic environment for all.

Faculty Access to Unofficial Student Transcripts

A new policy has been implemented that takes away faculty access to students’ unofficial transcripts. The faculty was unaware of the decision and considers it a pedagogical matter that needs to be discussed with them, apprising them of the reasoning behind the decision. The faculty considers access to transcripts an essential tool for teaching and advising students. As faculty is given access to class rosters each semester, perhaps they could be given access to the unofficial transcripts of the students in their classes.

Resolution to Acknowledge the Service of Now-Retired Marianne Gaunt

A motion was raised, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the Camden Faculty Council, Rutgers University-Camden resolution “Honoring University Librarian Marianne Gaunt Upon her Retirement from Rutgers.” The resolution recognizes Ms. Gaunt’s “thirty-five years of dedicated service to the Rutgers University Libraries” as University Librarian of all the Rutgers libraries and “her astute and visionary leadership of our libraries system.” The resolution is supported by Chancellor Haddon and was also passed by the New Brunswick School of Arts and Sciences.

Reduction of Robeson Library Evening Hours

Due to staffing issues, Robeson Library has been closing at 8pm during January and February. The normal closing time of 10pm will resume in March. Budget cuts have resulted in numerous delays and challenges. Of particular concern is the precarious funding associated with the evening reference librarian position. Robeson Library does not know until the beginning of each semester if this position is funded.

Due to the student demographic at Rutgers-Camden, CFC members feel it is critical for Robeson Library to remain open until 10pm and to staff an evening reference librarian position to serve evening students who may only be on campus once a week.
Next Meeting:

February 26, 2015 (Thursday): 12:15pm-1:30pm in the Executive Private Dining Room, Campus Center

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