Meeting of the Camden Faculty Council
Minutes
November 20, 2014
Executive Private Dining Room, Campus Center, 12:15pm-1:30pm

Attending:
Chair: Sam Rabinowitz
Members: Janice Beitz, Perry Dane, Bruce Garrity, Naomi Marmorstein, Joseph Martin, Judith McCoyd, Paul More, Andrew Shankman, Carol Singley, and Julie Still

Guests: Provost Ray Solomon and Andrew Lees

I. New Business

- Update on faculty representation on the Camden Board of Directors
- Update on the status of block scheduling at Rutgers-Camden
- Commencement at Rutgers-Camden
- Camden Faculty Council – Schedule of Meetings for Spring 2015

Update on faculty representation on the Camden Board of Directors

Andrew Shankman reported that he was welcomed as faculty representative to the Camden Board of Directors at the meeting on October 31, 2014. He urged Chancellor Haddon to appoint a highly qualified student representative to the board as soon as possible.

Update on the status of block scheduling at Rutgers-Camden

1. Discussions in FAS-Faculty Senate meetings have focused on deciding whether to
   - delay block scheduling
   - implement what administration proposed
   - improve the product and move forward

2. The FAS-Faculty Senate has consistently identified five major issues with block scheduling that need to be fixed:
   - Graduate classes need to start at 6pm instead of 6:15pm
   - The schedule cut out the possibility for a second graduate course. Only full-time students could use the 3:15pm-6:00pm block.
   - Lack of 50-minute classes. Pedagogically, Statistics, Psychology, and Languages need shorter classes that meet more often.
   - Free period at 11am (T/Th) and 2:10pm (M/W/F) did not work for several reasons, including use of free period for concerts and for the set-up of labs.
   - Use of non-primetime hours is necessary but difficult, particularly for students with children.

3. Given these issues, the decision needs to be made if implementation of block scheduling should proceed on schedule, if a stop-gap system which allows only 10 minutes between classes should be implemented, or if the roll out should be delayed until January 2016. Council members did not favor the stop gap system because it does not allow adequate time for students to get from one class to another on campus, and it certainly will not allow students enough time to get to the Nursing/Science Building in the future. This option would require changing the system when the new building opens, which CFC members also did not favor.

4. An ongoing, proactive, and representative committee on block scheduling (comprised of faculty, students, and administration) needs to be set up that will hear concerns and complaints, evaluate effectiveness, modify the system with the addition of buildings (e.g. Nursing and Science Building), etc. Provost Solomon tasked the
Camden Faculty Council with recommending committee members to Chancellor Haddon who will appoint a committee that represents the entire campus community.

**Commencement at Rutgers-Camden**

Holding the convocation and three graduations on one day is possible until Nursing outgrows the Gordon Theatre.

It was suggested that in lieu of the faculty dinner, departments could host pre-graduation gatherings for faculty, students, alumni, and family members. Following these, students and faculty could gather in front of Robeson Library and march over to the Susquehanna Bank Center. Buses would be provided for those who chose not to participate in the celebratory march.

**Camden Faculty Council – Schedule of Meetings for Spring 2015**

January 29 (Thursday)  
February 26 (Thursday)  
March 26 (Thursday)  
April 30 (Thursday)  
May 26 (Tuesday) (or the first week of June)

All meetings will take place from 12:15pm-1:30pm in the Executive Private Dining Room in the Campus Center at Rutgers-Camden.

**Next Meeting:**

December 4, 2014 (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