Faculty Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2009

I. Convening of the Meeting
Professor Cheickna Sylla

The meeting was convened at 2:40 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the May 6, 2009 meeting were approved by a voice vote.

III. Faculty Council
Professor Cheickna Sylla

Professor Harold Deutschman was elected for a three year term as Secretary of the Faculty by a voice vote.

A listing of Department representatives of the Council is in the Appendix A. Since Professor Ali Akansu, the Vice Chair is on sabbatical, Professor Janice Daniel and Professor Marvin Nakayama will be Acting Co-Vice Chairs. Professor William Van Buskirk will be serving as Parliamentarian for this year.

Faculty Council will be working on a written policy for the future creation, mergers or elimination of academic units, with Professor Dale Gary chairing the sub-committee. Input is sought from other universities as well as the faculty and administration of NJIT.

Faculty Handbook Revision – The Faculty Handbook was last updated in 2007 with an added table of contents and index and corrected syntax errors. Then Professor Emeritus Robert Lynch revised Section 1 and 2. The present issue is should we (a) leave the handbook as it is (b) bring it back to Faculty Council for review or (c) consider a university wide committee to work on the handbook.

The University Research Committee was established with Professor Jay Meegoda as chair.

Update on Evaluation of the New Computerized Scheduling System – The Council Sub-committee headed by Professor Nakayama reported on a survey conducted in Spring 09. The Faculty Council is currently analyzing the results of the survey.

Update Evaluation of Senior Administrator – A Faculty Council Committee has been formed to start the process of the evaluation of the Provost, Vice Presidents, Deans, and Department Chairpersons.

A motion was passed to extend the time allocated for the one year TAP Implementation Trial so that departments have two semesters to test and revised their Teaching Assignment Criteria (TAC).
Provost Search – We received 56 applications to date, and selected 10 candidates for on campus interviews.

IV. Report from the President  
President Robert Altenkirch

FY Budget – The NJ 2009-10 Budget is to be impacted by the governor’s directive to delay 3.8% salary increases over the next two years. The salary will then be made whole at the end of the two years. This follows the model being used by Rutgers University.

Central High School – The purchase agreement two years ago included a closing date of 2010-2012. But the Newark school system may want to use Central High School to house West Side High School students while the new West Side High School is built and the old school is torn down. However, it may be possible to build West Side High School (new school) adjacent to the old school, and then tear down the old school.

Gateway Project – In January the redevelopment plan was approved by the City Council. The NJIT Board of Trustees has approved an agreement with the developer. We will see physical progress on the plan in 18 months to 2 years.

Enrollment – Vice President Joel Bloom presented the current enrollment statistics. Our Freshman class had a retention rate going to the sophomore year of 84 percent. We have 998 Freshman this September. This is our second largest enrollment since 2001. The composite SAT for the incoming freshman was 1143, 11 points over last year. We will have competition in the future with the College of New Jersey and Rowan University fully accredited, and with the high school graduation pool expected to decline 1% per year for the next 5 years.

V. Provost Report  
Interim Provost Donald Sebastian

Currently we are at $93 million dollars of research expenditures compared to $45 million dollars in the year 2000. This is made up as follows:

1/3 Research Centers  
1/3 NCE  
1/3 Other

NJIT’s Strategic Plan defines our mission and character of research, to identify, explore, and fund key areas of research. We must tell the world what NJIT is about by our research. We also must increase our level of academic scholarship.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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Dr. Harold Deutschman