I. Convening of the Meeting

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 7, 2011 were approved and the minutes of January 18, 2012 were approved as corrected.

III. Report of Faculty Council Chair

There has not been a response to date from the distribution of presidential search committee documents from the State Department of Higher Education, State Ethics Board, EEDC, AAUP and the Middle States.

The Distinguished Professor Committee has invited Board members to a meeting to discuss the process of selecting a President.

The Faculty Council has started to form ad hoc committees to address upcoming administrative evaluations, the impact of athletics on campus life, and the drafting of a sabbatical leave policy.

There was letter to the Faculty Council from the Sabbatical Committee expressing concerns with the Board of Trustees process in the selection of Sabbatical Leaves (See Appendix A).

There was a motion (amended) to invite Dr. Joel Bloom, President to a Faculty Meeting to present his vision of the future of NJIT and the challenges facing Higher Education. In addition, the motion included an invitation to the Board of Trustees to attend this meeting. The motion was approved.

There was a motion (amended) to appeal to the Board of Trustees for redress of the treatment of the nine faculty members who were denied sabbatical leaves for the upcoming academic year and ask that it approve their leaves. The motion was passed by the faculty and is included in Appendix B.
IV. Report from the President

Dr. Joel Bloom

The UMDNJ Advisory Committee Report indicated that NJIT is a unique and important member of the Higher Education Community in NJ. It recommended that we maintain our autonomy in New Jersey, withdraw plans for a Medical School, and concentrate on the engineering and health sciences.

Academic Planning – The deans will present their colleges and school plans at the April 5th meeting of the Board of Trustees. We are proceeding with searches for new faculty.

Warren St. Village – The Honors College residences and the Greek homes were approved for development by the Board of Trustees.

V. Report from the Provost

Dr. Ian Gatley

The Provost illustrated the Fall Math results of Math 110/111/131, along with pass rates. He demonstrated the success of the Learning Communities by survey results. He also spoke about the 26 different search committees set up for 12 hires in September 2012.

VI. Presentation of a New Major in Theatre Arts and Technology

Ms. Michele Rittenhouse, Director, Theatre Arts and Technology Division

A motion was made for a new major in Theatre Arts and Technology. The motion was passed by the faculty.

VII. Report on Course Evaluation

Professor Priscilla Nelson

The Faculty Council voted to approve in principle students' access to faculty evaluation including comments on an op-in basis. This implementation is underway in the Federated History Department.

Charts showing student response rates for faculty evaluations were similar for paper results versus internet results.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Dr. Harold Deutschman
Appendix A

We, the faculty members of the Sabbatical Committee, are writing to the Faculty Council to express our concern as regards how the process of selecting this academic year’s sabbatical proposals submitted to us from our colleagues unfolded. Our concern lies with the importance of sabbatical leave in maintaining and expanding the intellectual capital necessary to sustain a technological research university. Faculty input is critical to evaluating sabbatical proposals and we believe that our careful evaluation of candidates for sabbatical leave was not given adequate consideration by the administration. Specifically, circumstances were such that the number of sabbaticals to be made available was greatly reduced and recommendations for sabbatical leave were made to the Board of Trustees without consultation with our committee and in a manner that was not fully consistent with our assessment of the quality of the proposals. In the end, our committee did not play an instrumental role in this selection. We believe that this is an unfortunate turn of events and we would like to bring it to the attention of the Faculty Council.

Durga Misra, Chair

Gabrielle Esperdy
Burt Kimmelman
Petronije (Tony) Milojevic
Vincent Oria
Arijit Sengupta
Mark Somers
Appendix B

WHEREAS the faculty sabbatical committee established to review and recommend sabbatical leaves strongly recommended 15 applications and recommended 2 applications;

WHEREAS the Provost sent only 7 forward for Board approval;

WHEREAS the rationale upon which those 7 were chosen was not explained;

WHEREAS the NJIT Faculty Handbook states:

The purpose of having system of sabbatical leaves at New Jersey Institute of Technology is to increase the effectiveness of a faculty member’s university service as well as to afford them an opportunity for professional development by relieving them of all normal campus activity;

WHEREAS denying sabbatical leave to research-active faculty poorly impacts their professional development putting them at a disadvantage with their peers both at NJIT and at other universities and institutions to host them;

WHEREAS faculty member in (not unrealistic) expectation of having a sabbatical leave had already made arrangement for families to be temporarily relocated;

WHEREAS faculty members denied sabbatical leave are already seeking employment elsewhere;

WHEREAS not all sabbatical leaves will necessitate the hiring of adjunct faculty;

BE IT MOVED that the faculty at NJIT appeal to the Board of Trustees for redress of the treatment of the 9 faculty members who were denied sabbatical leaves for the upcoming academic year and ask that it approve their leaves.