1. **Dean's report** - Dean Peter Amenta made the following announcements:

   - **Congratulations to:**
     - **Jianjie Ma, PhD**, Professor and Acting Chair, Department of Physiology and Biophysics and his team, whose publication, “PTRF anchors MG53 to cell injury site for initiation of membrane repair”, was published online on February 22, 2011 and selected as a paper of the week in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. 


Emmanuel DiCicco-Bloom, MD, Professor of Neuroscience and Cell Biology who, along with Jacqueline Crawley, PhD, Chief, Laboratory of Behavioral Neuroscience, Intramural Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, was guest editor of a special issue of Autism Research. “Mouse Models of Autism Spectrum Disorders” was published as the February 2011 edition.

Noah Weisleder, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, is the recipient of the 2011 Kauffman Foundation Outstanding Postdoctoral Entrepreneur Award.

- Match Day was held on March 17, 2011. Match rate for New Brunswick and Camden campuses was 98% while the national match rate was 94%. Students matched at many excellent training programs around the country.

- RWJMG’s Family Medicine at Monument Square Practice has received the highest level (3) of recognition as a patient centered medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

- To prepare for federally mandated reviews of our patient care documentation and the bills generated during the first audit conducted by compliance, the average accuracy rate for this group of RWJMG providers was 38%. Following the institution of the collaborative training program designed by the RWJMG’s coding unit and the RWJ-Office of Ethics Compliance and Corporate Integrity, the average post training accuracy rate for the group improved to 83%. 100% of those re-audited post-training received accuracy rates of 70% or above. 50% of those re-audited post-training received accuracy rates of 90% or above. The Office of Ethics Compliance and Corporate Integrity will continue to track and analyze the effectiveness of this new training program.

- Search Committees Status
  - Chair, Department of Psychiatry – Committee has submitted list; final visits are concluded
  - Chair, DEOM/Director, EOHSI – Committee is interviewing candidates
  - Chair, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – receiving applications; first round of interviews underway
  - Chair, Department of Pediatrics – receiving applications; initial interviews are being scheduled

- Upcoming Events
  - Dean’s Town Hall Meetings
    - Camden: April 13, 2011 – 2:30PM (ERB 240)
    - Jersey Shore: May 20, 2011 – 8:30AM (Neptune Campus, Lance Auditorium)
2. **New Business:** An extensive discussion was held regarding the recent Kean Commission Report and issues that might affect the status of the RWJMS faculty.

- Nancy Walworth raised the issue if and how the faculty wants to discuss going about doing that and encouraged an open discussion. The Department of Pharmacology spent one faculty meeting discussing the potential impact on its faculty:
  - What the future would be for Faculty with tenure.
  - Strengthening basic science research
  - Having the opportunity to fully engage with Rutgers
  - Having the recognition that basic science research in the context of a Medical School is of value intrinsically.
  - We already interact with Rutgers and see a lot of synergies continuing there. Finances and collaborations could be made simpler.
  - We recognize that a medical school has a very different mission than an undergraduate institution in teaching students and has to maintain autonomy in order to carry that out effectively
  - Merging Rutgers basic science departments with all of our departments is something that is not appealing and would concern us

- Larry Golbe expressed concern that the risks and benefits to the RWJMS faculty remain unclear. We have to go into this with our eyes open.

- Monica Roth raised the issue as to who will make the final decision and will the Faculty be participating in the conversation?

- **Dean Amenta** explained the current follow-up to the report and suggested some options and thoughts:
  - A second commission is to be appointed before any opinions are solicited.
  - The faculty council should take the minutes from this meeting and try to generate a number of questions and concerns on behalf of the faculty as a whole
  - A concern is it might be perceived that we are going to be “rescued.” We don’t need to be rescued; we are a very, very strong organization.
  - Future decisions are likely to be made in part by the Governor. There may be some legislative issues.

- Monica Roth expressed concern turning the issue over to the Faculty Council alone.

- Dean Amenta concurred and commented that was why today’s special meeting was called. The Faculty Council can facilitate getting the faculties’ desires together on paper and return to a future Faculty Meeting.
Stephen Lowry believes the sense of the clinical faculty is unclear. He raised one concern as to how the negotiations about how the University Hospital in Newark will be resolved will affect the Commissions decisions.

Dean Amenta: responded that as recently reported in *NJ Biz*, University Hospital might be spun off as to private organization.

Sarah Hitchcock urged each department to discuss concerns at their faculty meetings including issues related to central administration.

John Walker asked if anyone knows when the Governor will appoint the new commission.

Dean Amenta commented and encouraged the faculty to continue the discussion and forward comments to his office if needed.

Monica Roth further discussed the issue of tenure and whether the state legislature needed to be involved. She hoped a transition would be smooth and not get involved in other political motivations.

David Seiden suggested reviewing the history of the prior transition of the medical school from Rutgers in the 1970s and how many of the issues were addressed at that time (well or poorly.)

Lauri Goodell questioned how much of a proactive role do the Dean’s office and the medical school plan to take in structuring this process given recent experiences elsewhere.

Dean Amenta believes if the go ahead is given there will be multiple committees to address the different aspects of any transition. He commented that during this period our focus must be to continue working to run RWJMS to the best of our abilities as a part of UMDNJ.

Jeff Laskin encouraged that the Faculty Council meet with “lower level” administrators at Rutgers if the merger goes through.

Jeff Carson discussed having a statement by the faculty in favor or opposed to this merger in the hope of influencing how things go.

Alan Spotnitz expressed his concern about the downsides of forcibly expressing an opinion.

Terry Kinzy reported that the Graduate School at Robert Wood is in almost weekly conversation with Rutgers about many things regarding joint grant subcontracts, IRB, ICOC, and have done so successfully in the past when they have had to work on those issues together.
o Nancy Walworth felt strongly that it is up to the faculty to determine its consensus opinion and consider how it would want to make a statement and what that statement would be. She encouraged brainstorming in departmental faculty meetings and elsewhere and to get that information to the faculty council in writing.

o Alan Spotnitz suggested ideas be sent to him until the first meeting the faculty council at spotnitz@umdnj.edu.

o David Riley suggested the faculty may need to look into acquiring some knowledge about the politics and political maneuvering that might be needed by the faculty in the future.

o Alan Spotnitz asked about the financial costs involved if a merger occurred.

o Dean Amenta was unaware of any cost estimates. He expressed his appreciation of the very measured, very thoughtful discussion. He encouraged the faculty to continue asking questions and gather opinions of the faculty for the Faculty Council.

o Monica Roth asked if anyone could comment about the sort of working model they can envision of how the two universities could be jointed. What sort of system would be ideal especially from the clinical side?

o Jeff Carson expressed the opinion of two “missions” for the faculty. One to express its view on what it hopes will happen and try to influence that process. Second to identify the issues, getting them all together, to understand them to vet them and to think about them so that if this does go forward, those that are going to be negotiating with Rutgers have that knowledge that has been generated from the whole group about the issues that are important.

o Jerry Langer pointed out that there are various models of how medical schools fit into comprehensive universities; we might educate ourselves a little bit more on what the variability is in those models.

o Sarah Hitchcock urged the Office of Faculty Affairs to support the faculty council and set up their first meeting as soon as possible and support any sub-committees that they establish.

o Jerry Langer as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs said yes.

o George Lambert supported the concept that it is our job and most important for the faculty to get the wisdom together to give the right information to those who will be making the ultimate decisions.

o Michael Gallo pointed out that the Laboratory Research Task Force looked at many comprehensive universities that had medical schools. The models are out there and our Faculty Council and leadership of the medical school should review some of those schools. He suggested that an internal committee study that part alone not just the faculty council.
o Terry Kinzy reminded the faculty that Phil Furmanski, a very senior leader at Rutgers, was a member of the external committee that was part of the Laboratory Research Task Force, and received a lot of very specific information about the school at presentations so there have already been opportunities for them to learn more about us as well.

o Dean Amenta summarized future steps in the process that every department meet with representative for the Faculty Council get some information from the respective departments so the Faculty Council can start preparing a document to bring back to the next faculty meeting.

o Sarah Hitchcock reminded the faculty that the Faculty Council meetings are open to all faculty and encouraged attendance at the meetings.

3. Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Spotnitz
Secretary of the Faculty