1. The minutes of the October 11, 2010 Faculty meeting were approved.

2. **Dean's report** - Dean Peter Amenta. Dr. Amenta announced the following awards and events:

   - Dr. Sidney Pestka, Professor and Chair of the Department of Molecular Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, has informed me of his decision to step down as Chair after 24 years of distinguished service to the department and medical school. Dr. Pestka has established an international reputation for scientific excellence and especially for developing interferons, the first biotherapeutic agents. He has
published extensively and holds many U.S. and foreign patents. He has brought national and international recognition to RWJMS.

In 2002 Dr. Pestka was honored as one of five recipients of the National Medal of Technology in a White House ceremony. Dr. Pestka has many other honors and awards including induction into the New Jersey Inventor's Hall of Fame, the Selman Waksman Award in Microbiology, the Milstein Award from the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research, Warren Alpert Foundation Prize from Harvard University and the Lemelson-MIT Lifetime Achievement Award. He has served on the National Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Task Force, the Basic Pharmacology Advisory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association Foundation and is secretary, and former President, of the International Society of Interferon Research.

At RWJMS he developed the Department into a recognized scientific leader in areas such as cell signaling factors, RNA biology, immunology and virology and headed a successful NIH Program Project linking these areas. He also has overseen the recruitment and development of many junior and mid-career faculty and played an important role in the development of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, serving as a program director for many years. In addition, he has served as PI on an NIH Institutional graduate student training grant in Viral-Host Interactions that is now in its 16th year.

Dr. Pestka will return to the faculty to continue his research efforts. Please join me in thanking Dr. Pestka for his superb service.

An announcement of the appointment of Gary Brewer, PhD, as Interim Chair, Department of Molecular Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology will be forthcoming.

- I am delighted to announce the Foundation of UMDNJ has received two grants from the RWJF to support the Eric B. Chandler Health Center. The first will support the operations of the center while the second will establish an endowment that will allow the center to continue to maintain the provision of those services in perpetuity.

- The RWJMS Strategic Planning Steering Committee held a half day meeting in November to begin the work of taking the information received from the Path A and Path B processes to formulate a document for moving forward. A second full day committee meeting is scheduled for January.

- The Learning Environment Assessment Program (LEAP) Committee has drafted a policy on learner mistreatment that addresses the behaviors required from all teachers in order to assure an educational environment in which all involved may raise and resolve issues without fear of intimidation or retaliation. The policy in its entirety will be distributed shortly.

- The Faculty Senate, the University based organization has received enough votes for passage. Two of the schools did not vote on this and we had not heard subsequent of this vote where we sit with regard the establishment of the Faculty Senate at the University Level. It will be discussed at the University Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees in early January.
Awards and Honors

- I am pleased to inform you that Patricia Whitley-Williams, MD, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Pediatrics, received the 2010 Trailblazer Award from the Central Jersey Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. The award will be presented at the 3rd Annual Women of Achievement Lunch on November 20th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Somerset. Congratulations, Pat.

- Congratulations to John Kostis, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, who was appointed to the Board of the American Society of Hypertension Specialists Program, the board that certifies specialists in hypertension. John was also invited to serve as an editorial board member of the Journal of Hypertension.

- Congratulations to Melvin Weinstein, MD, Professor of Medicine and of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, who will receive the 2011 bioMerieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology from the American Society of Microbiology (ASM). Dr. Weinstein will receive his award during the ASM General Meeting on May 22, 2011 in New Orleans.

- I am pleased to inform you that Naomi Schlesinger, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, has been appointed President of the New Jersey Rheumatology Association. Dr. Schlesinger was appointed on November 16, 2010 at a meeting of the association and will serve a two year term.

- Congratulations to Gloria Bachmann, MD, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, who has been selected to receive the 2011 Raising our Voices – Women Leaders in Medicine Award from the American Medical Student Association. This award recognized women physicians and educators who serve as role models, teachers, highly accomplished professionals, and sources of inspiration for women currently in medical training.

- I am pleased to announce that Shazia Mehmood, a third year medical student at RWJMS, was chosen to receive a Herbert Nickens Scholarship from the AAMC. Ms. Mehmood received this award for her commitment to the elimination of health disparities. Congratulations.

- I am very pleased to announce that RWJMS was a Gold Winner at the 2010 Cardiovascular Advertising Awards for print material from the Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey dedication. Congratulations to all involved.

- It gives me great pleasure to announce that Gianna Casini, a medical student at RWJMS was awarded Best Abstract, Radiology/Imaging for her podium presentation at the American Medical Association Interim meeting in November.
Research

- I am delighted to announce that two recent papers from investigators of the Cardiovascular Institute of New Jersey have received national attention.
  
  - “Trends in Mortality of Acute Myocardial Infarction after Discharge from the Hospital” published in the November 2010 *Circulation Cardiovascular Quality Outcomes*, describes the increasing mortality post hospital discharge of patients with acute MI. An accompanying editorial described the findings as a substantial paradigm shift.

  - “Persistence of Mortality Reduction after the End of Randomized Therapy in Clinical Trials of Blood Pressure Lowering Medications”, to be published in the December issue of *Hypertension*. This publication was selected by editors for CME credit.

Search Committees Status

- Psychiatry – Committee has submitted list; final visits are concluded
- Chair EOM/Director EOHSI – Committee is interviewing candidates
- Chair, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – Charge meeting was held November 2, 2010; Bob DiPaola Chair
- Chair, Department of Pediatrics – Charge meeting held November 18th; Al Tallia Chair

Upcoming Events

1. Annual Toy Drive – November 29-December 14

2. Save the date for RWJMS gala for alumni scholarship efforts (April 2, 2011 at the Heldrich). There will be a Silent Auction, please support the effort.

Other Items

The Laboratory Research Task Force met on Friday. The comment period is open until after the New Year. The recommendations from both the internal and external committees will be turned over to the Strategic Planning Committee.

The budget process for 2012 has begun and will be shown at the Executive Council and at the Faculty meeting.

Questions from the Floor

The Task Force for Higher Education report has not yet been released and should be published by the New Year.
3. **Faculty Council – Dr. Alan Spotnitz.** Faculty Council has gone through the process of approval. Terms will be effective September 1, 2011 and we will begin the nominations process shortly.

4. **New Business**

   Dr. Amenta asked for new business, and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Spotnitz
Secretary of the Faculty