Minutes
Faculty Council
February 5, 2013

Present: Drs. Ayers, Pintar, Stock, Kiss, Roth, Walworth, Walker, Abali, Boyarsky, Kim
Absent: Drs. Aisner, DiCiccio-Bloom

The quorum was met and the minutes of the December 11, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Dr. Emine Ercikan Abali, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was welcomed as the newest elected member of the Council.

Members of the Rutgers community had been invited to explain the Appointments and Promotions process at Rutgers. Those invited were unable to attend the scheduled meeting of the Council, but provided a detailed description of the Rutgers University process, which is also available online: http://ruweb.rutgers.edu/oldqueens/FACpromotions.shtml. Differences that will need to be addressed with the upcoming merger, include the maximum number of years of service allowed on tenure-track. It was noted that the final review committee at Rutgers includes faculty appointed by the President.

The post-hurricane debriefing meeting held in January was discussed. Faculty are encouraged to direct questions to their Department Chairs and Institute Directors who were invited to the meeting. The presenters, Robert Prodoehl, Director of Operations for RWJMS and Sharon Holswade, Director of Practice Operations for RWJMG discussed preparations and consequences of the storm and highlighted ongoing areas of concern, including communications issues and backup power. The Research Committee is reviewing for distribution to all departments an emergency preparation plan developed at CABM. Electricians have been assigned to identify emergency power outlets in the research tower in Piscataway; however, the process has been slowed due to loss of a staff electrician. There is no known time frame for completing this process. It was noted that the facility in Somerset has no emergency power and that steps were taken at Chandler to move vaccines and perishables to other locations with emergency power. There was a question regarding the definition of a “closed” building, since campus buildings are closed on weekends and holidays, yet access for students and staff is permitted. The distinction lies with whether functionality of safety systems such as sprinklers can be assured.

In past Faculty Council meetings, there was discussion of the definitions of Clinical versus Preclinical faculty and consideration given to how faculty are designated for eligibility to serve on standing committees, including the Faculty Council. This discussion was postponed for discussion at another date.

On Friday, January 31, a letter from Rutgers President Barchi to the Rutgers Community was received by some RWJMS faculty (because of their affiliation with various programs at Rutgers) and posted on the Rutgers University Strategy website http://president.rutgers.edu/public-remarks/letters/participating-rutgers’-strategic-planning. The letter described next steps being taken to engage the Rutgers community in the strategy development process, including a survey of faculty, and announced the formation of advisory groups of deans, faculty, staff and students. Having seen the letter, Dr. Walworth contacted Dean Amenta on February 4 to express concern since RWJMS faculty had not been surveyed and no RWJMS faculty were amongst the faculty advisory group. Dr. Walworth conveyed to the Council that Dean Amenta had only recently learned
of his appointment to the Deans Advisory Group and had been invited to the team retreat on March 6. Dean Amenta agreed to reach out to his contacts at Rutgers to inquire about inclusion of RWJMS faculty in the process.

The schedule outlined on the Rutgers website included departmental discussions to be held in February, Town Hall meetings scheduled in March, and a team retreat scheduled for March 6 with 150-200 invited people. The Rutgers plan is being prepared with the assistance of the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Rutgers’ partner in the strategic planning process and covers a 10-year time frame.

It was noted that some RWJMS faculty who are directors of graduate programs that are joint with Rutgers had received a request from the Rutgers Graduate School New Brunswick to solicit input from their program faculty. They had received 5 specific questions dealing with aspirations, hurdles, and areas for improvement.

Upon further discussion the Council voted unanimously to write a letter to President Barchi expressing concern about the lack of inclusion of RWJMS faculty in the strategic planning process given that only months remain before incorporation of RWJMS into Rutgers. As required by the bylaws, the letter first will be presented to Dean Amenta, who needs prior knowledge of Council communications.

It was noted that Rutgers Interim Provost for Biomedical and Health Sciences, Dr. Christopher Molloy is speaking at the RWJMS Retired Faculty Association meeting on Friday, February 8 at noon in Piscataway. Faculty members are encouraged to attend.

The Search Committee for the Chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences has been created http://www.rutgers.edu/about-rutgers/chancellor-biomedical-and-health-sciences. Other than faculty who are deans of schools, there is limited faculty participation on the committee.

Integration of the proposed UMDNJ Faculty Senate with the Rutgers University Senate was discussed. The Rutgers Senate includes faculty elected from each school, as well as student and staff elected representatives and administrators. The Rutgers Senate recently adopted a proposal to reduce the size of its Senate, with the formula for faculty representation to include 1 senator for 60 faculty FTEs, up to 10 senators, then 1 representative for 120 FTEs. RWJMS has approximately 700 FTE. In the near future, it is anticipated that RWJMS will need to hold elections for representatives to the Rutgers Senate.

Additional comments were made about the flow of information from the integration teams and how to determine whether specific concerns have been discussed. Examples of questions included the difference about paying tuition for graduate students between Rutgers and GSBS and visas that are permitted for staff hires.

As this is the first meeting with a fully constituted Council of 12 members, discussion ensued for electing new officers to fill terms that will end on August 31, 2013, when the rollover of terms normally takes place. Nancy Walworth described the responsibility of each office and stated that, while having enjoyed the opportunity to serve as President, she does not wish to remain in office. The President and Vice President need to be from different Clinical and Pre-Clinical classifications. The Council agreed that nominations should be taken for each office individually. A call for nominations will be sent by e-mail and Council members may self-nominate.

The meeting was adjourned.