Faculty Council President's Report to the RWJMS Faculty
Dean's Special Faculty Meeting
August 23, 2012

The Council met three times since the last Dean’s Faculty Meeting was held May 7: on May 22 with the Dean, on June 19, and on July 10 with Dr. Christopher Molloy. The report to the Faculty at the August 23 Special Faculty Meeting focused exclusively on activities of the Council in regard to the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act signed by Governor Christie on August 22 transferring RWJMS, and other components of UMDNJ, to Rutgers University on July 1, 2013, pending approval by the Rutgers governing boards.

1. On behalf of the Faculty, the Council sent a letter to the June 13 meeting of the New Jersey Senate Higher Education Committee in support of the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act introduced to the legislature on June 5, which merges RWJMS, as a component of UMDNJ, with Rutgers. The letter noted, “the pending legislation appropriately assures the transfer of employee rights and tenure agreements to Rutgers” and urged the State “to act in a timely manner, and with appropriate regard to the financial requirements necessary to make the merger a successful one.”

2. At its June 19 meeting, the Faculty Council discussed the legislation and in particular the absence of specifics regarding a reporting structure for the central New Jersey components of UMDNJ. As a result of this discussion, on June 20, the Council sent letters to every New Jersey State Senator and Assemblyman expressing the view that the RWJMS Faculty are in favor of alignment with Rutgers provided that adequate funding is assured by the State, the transfer of employee rights and tenure agreements to Rutgers as expressed in the legislation are retained and “that optimal integration of RWJMS with Rutgers will be attained if the school reports locally to the Rutgers administration”. The letter stated, “the merger of RWJMS with Rutgers will best serve the citizens of New Jersey” by “recognizing and incorporating RWJMS as an integral component of the central New Jersey campus of Rutgers”. On June 21, the Council sent a copy of that letter to Dr. Christopher Molloy, Interim Provost for Biomedical and Health Sciences at Rutgers, expressing concern regarding language in the bill and emphasizing the view that successful integration of RWJMS with Rutgers would assure that RWJMS reports locally to Rutgers.

3. On June 28, as revised versions of the legislation became public, the Council sent a letter to Dr. Molloy and Dean Amenta expressing concern regarding the organizational structure of the proposed School of Biomedical and Health Sciences. On June 29, following passage of the legislation by the Assembly and Senate, the Council communicated disappointment to Dr. Molloy regarding the reporting structure described in the bill. On July 3 the Council sent a letter to Dr. Molloy expressing the view that an opportunity had been lost to effect beneficial change on this campus as a result of the restructuring.
4. Dr. Molloy attended the July 10 Faculty Council meeting. Dr. Molloy communicated to those present that a nationwide search for Chancellor of the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences (SBHS) would be initiated upon the arrival of Dr. Robert Barchi as President of Rutgers in September. Dr. Molloy reiterated that the Chancellor will be appointed by and will report to the President of Rutgers. Dr. Molloy clarified that the President will appoint Provosts for the SBHS on the New Brunswick/Piscataway and Newark campuses. Both Provosts will report to the Chancellor.

5. The next meeting of the Faculty Council is pending the election of new members since terms for one-third of the members ended on August 31, 2012. Meeting minutes, links to items of interest and Council reports to the Faculty can be found on the Faculty Council website at: http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/faculty/council/related.html

Respectfully submitted,

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