Faculty Council President’s Report to the RWJMS Faculty
Dean’s Faculty Meeting
September 24, 2012

The Council has not met since the Dean’s Special Faculty Meeting on August 23, 2012. As 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 the report presented at the September regular faculty meeting summarized other activities of the Council in recent months and a review of issues discussed by the Council in its first year.

Over the course of its first year in existence:

1. The Faculty Council urged that the implementation plan to reorganize the basic science departments resulting from the Laboratory Research Task Force (LRTF) report be discussed at an open forum with the Dean and that a V-tel connection be provided to encourage attendance on the part of faculty on both campuses. A forum was held on July 21, 2011 for this purpose in Piscataway with V-tel to New Brunswick.

2. In light of the reorganization of the basic science departments, the Council urged that a task force be established to consider the impact of the reduction in the number of departments on the composition of standing committees. The Council was provided with the opportunity to recommend faculty for this task.

3. At its October 2011 meeting the Council welcomed Dr. David August, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Appointments and Promotions to discuss revisions to the RWJMS Guidelines and the mechanisms by which promotion criteria are communicated to faculty. During the course of the year as revisions to the Guidelines were presented to and discussed at the Executive Council, the Faculty Council urged that faculty be given the opportunity to provide input. Dr. August presented the guidelines at the August 23 Dean’s Special Faculty Meeting prior to their posting on the RWJMS website for comment.

4. At its December 2011 meeting the Council welcomed Dr. Sunita Kramer, Chair of the Research Committee to discuss the mechanism by which new research policies for salary recovery, allocation of research space and indirect cost sharing had been considered by the Committee. The Council notes that the policies were implemented on March 1, 2012. The salary recovery policy has not been well-received by some faculty who are concerned that requirements for salary recovery will impact the use of grant funds for research support.

5. At it’s May 2011 meeting the Council welcomed Dean Peter Amenta to discuss the growing demands on faculty effort in an era of diminished resources.

6. Throughout the year the Council urged that steps be taken to improve communication between administration and faculty. The Council notes that positive steps have been taken, including the timely posting of minutes for Faculty Meetings and meetings...
of the Executive Council, the establishment of a website for the Faculty Council and the Dean’s willingness to meet regularly with the Council President and to attend Council meetings at the Council’s request.

7. In response to concerns raised by faculty members about the implementation of online patient information through the RWJMG, the Council recommended in May 2012 that specific steps be taken to improve communication between the leadership and physicians of the Medical Group. These suggestions were implemented.

8. Over the course of the year, the Council took multiple opportunities to communicate the views of the RWJMS faculty regarding the proposed merger of RWJMS (initially) and UMDNJ (eventually) with Rutgers. The Council synthesized faculty input and communicated these views to the Dean prior to the visit of the UMDNJ Advisory Committee in the summer of 2011. Once the Final Report of the Committee was released, the Council communicated support for the incorporation of RWJMS into Rutgers to the NJ Senate Higher Education Committee (February 3, 2012) and the joint meeting of the Assembly and Senate Higher Education Committees (March 15, 2012). Upon introduction to the legislature of the NJ Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act, the Council communicated support for the merger of RWJMS with Rutgers to the Senate Higher Education Committee (June 13, 2012). The Council further communicated to all NJ state legislators (June 20, 2012) and the Rutgers leadership that benefits to restructuring would best be accomplished with RWJMS reporting locally to Rutgers. Details of these communications in the summer of 2012 were summarized for the August 23, 2012 faculty meeting:

http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/faculty/council/documents/FCReportToFacMtg082312.pdf

Letters to the committees and legislators are posted on the Faculty Council website:

http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/faculty/council/related.html

9. 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. Along with faculty elections to standing committees the election was delayed this year, but closed on September 21. Once Council vacancies are filled and officers can be elected for the coming year, a meeting date will be announced. 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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