Faculty Council President's Report to the RWJMS Faculty  
Dean's Faculty Meeting  
December 3, 2012

The Council has had a slow start this academic year. As a result of bylaws changes to account for the reorganization of the basic science departments and the departure of the RWJMS-Camden faculty, faculty elections to standing committees and the Council, which normally take place during the summer months, were delayed until late September. Following the completion of the election, the Council remained one member short. The Nominations and Elections Committee is assembling a slate of candidates to include faculty in the one department from which the final member of the Council must be elected. A Council meeting scheduled for October 30, 2012 was canceled due to the arrival of Hurricane Sandy.

While the newly configured Council for this academic year has yet to meet, areas of interest for the coming months are likely to include the following:

- Assess the relationship of the Council to faculty governance structures at Rutgers and within Rutgers-Biomedical and Health Sciences
- Contribute to integration of RWJMS with Rutgers where possible and appropriate
- Continue to encourage communication with the Dean and the administration
- Continue to initiate discussions regarding issues of concern to the Faculty

Recently, members of the Faculty raised the following issues:

Following the hurricane, several faculty communicated concerns regarding the status of backup power in research buildings on campus. For example, while there is backup power in the research tower in Piscataway, information as to the location of outlets that are connected to backup power systems is limited to non-existent, putting at risk the products of years of research.

Faculty received notice of the intention of the State of New Jersey to increase the fringe benefit rate for state employees from 37.95% for FY2012 (up from 35.15% in FY2011) to 45.45% for FY2013. Since large increases were not included in budgets for grant-funded salaries, the impact on grant dollars available for research activities other than salaries could be significant.

The faculty at UMDNJ has been without a contract for several years. UMDNJ opened contract negotiations with the union representing the faculty (AAUP) and circulated a contract proposal to the faculty by e-mail, the contents of which have generated concern.

In the process of conducting the faculty election in September, the consequences of designating departments as clinical or preclinical became apparent, particularly in light of the reorganization of the basic science departments, which eliminated two preclinical departments. There are now 17 clinical departments at the medical school and three pre-
clinical, or basic science departments. The RWJMS bylaws stipulate that six members of the Council must come from clinical departments and six from preclinical departments, with no more than two from any one department. As a result, each of the preclinical departments must contribute two faculty members to the Faculty Council.

The next meeting of the Faculty Council is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in CAB1302 in New Brunswick and the Dean’s Conference Room in Piscataway.

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,

Nancy C. Walworth, Ph.D.
Professor of Pharmacology
President, RWJMS Faculty Council