Faculty Council President's Report to the RWJMS Faculty
Dean's Faculty Meeting
December 6, 2011

The last Dean’s Faculty Meeting was held on October 19 at which the inaugural report of the Faculty Council to the Faculty took place. The Council met in October just prior to that meeting, did not meet in November and will meet this month on December 13, shortly after this meeting. Nonetheless, there are several issues that the Faculty Council would like to call to the attention of the Faculty, including progress on matters discussed in October.

1. The Faculty Council website has been established and will be accessible here: http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/faculty/index.html
   You will find minutes of our meetings, recommendations we have made to the Dean and links to sites or information that we think may be of interest to the Faculty.

2. As mentioned at the October Dean’s Faculty Meeting, the Council has urged the administration to improve communication between Faculty, the Dean and his administrators. Positive steps in this direction have occurred. The Executive Council of RWJMS meets monthly and the Dean communicates to department chairs, institute directors, and others in attendance matters of importance to the Faculty. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some of these matters are communicated to the Faculty, and some are not. We call to your attention that the Minutes of the Executive Council meetings are now accessible on the RWJMS website at this link: http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/about_rwjms/faculty/faculty_affairs/committees/ExecutiveCouncilMinutes.html

3. Creation of the UMDNJ Faculty Senate is ongoing. The election of RWJMS Senators was completed in late October, and the Council thanks Faculty Secretary Alan Spotnitz, the Nominations and Elections Committee, particularly Ann Stock who expedited the process, and Ruthe Geardino for seeing the election through to completion. The RWJMS Senators are actively participating in meetings of the Senate. The Piscataway/New Brunswick caucus, including Senators from RWJMS, the School of Public Health and GSBS at RWJMS, numbers eleven Senators, exactly 1/3 of the total. We have made it clear to our colleagues at other schools of UMDNJ that our actions as Senators will reflect the reality of the Governor’s Advisory Committee’s recommendations regarding RWJMS and the SPH.

4. The Faculty Council was invited by the Rutgers New Brunswick Faculty Council Executive Committee to meet with them. 7 of the 12 of us did so on Friday December 2. The governance structure at Rutgers was described to us and we shared issues of common concern to faculty at RWJMS and RU. All agreed that ongoing discussions regarding mechanisms by which our faculty will share in governance of RWJMS and the University are warranted.
5. The Rutgers University homepage now has a "quicklink" entitled "Rutgers and Medical Education", which launches a website hosting a collection of statements and documents regarding the merger of RWJMS with Rutgers. One page, entitled Preliminary Planning, includes information about Christopher Molloy, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, who was appointed Interim Provost for Biomedical and Health Sciences, a position at Rutgers newly created in anticipation of the merger. Contact information for Dr. Molloy can be found there. Dean Amenta has shared with us at recent Faculty Forums that Integration Teams have been established that include very high-level administrators at Rutgers and UMDNJ, including Dean Amenta. It is our hope that faculty involvement and input will be welcome as the Integration Teams do their work. Until the membership of the working committees established by the Teams becomes public knowledge, however, the Faculty Council encourages you to share questions, concerns and ideas regarding the merger with Dean Amenta. Sometime in the near future, we hope that committee membership will become transparent so that faculty will know to whom they might turn regarding specific matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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