Minutes Faculty Council 12/13/11


Absent: Drs. Aisner, Ayers, Hegyi and Roth.

1. The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

2. Dr. Walworth reported on the Dean’s response to the Recommendations made to him following the October meeting:
   1. Improve communication between the Administration and the Faculty: Minutes from Executive Council meetings are now posted. The Faculty Council webpage has been established with assistance from Lucy Mashas and Katherine Macqueen.
   2. Roles of department chairs and distribution of faculty effort, particularly with regard to teaching. The Dean is sensitive to these issues and open to hearing from the faculty.

Discussion of faculty effort continued, particularly with regard to the expected teaching load for a faculty member. Prior to institution of the new curriculum, a department chair had a broad view of departmental and school-wide responsibilities, and a vested interest in working with their faculty to determine how best to fulfill these roles, while protecting time for research. In the new curriculum structure, faculty members are called upon by course directors from a variety of departments to teach in a number of different courses that are not departmentally based. In addition to medical student and PhD-level graduate student teaching, there are increasing demands for teaching students in masters programs and the Physician’s Assistants program. A number of individuals report that the message they hear is to teach as much as possible because that is how departments get their share of the state budget allocation. Since courses have been dissociated from departments, however, there is a sense that no one is looking at the big picture of how teaching effort is distributed. Because of this, it is difficult for individuals to make informed decisions when asked to teach or serve in various capacities. The Council will consider what steps could be taken to provide transparency regarding faculty effort, including a review of how other institutions, including Rutgers, handle such issues. Examples mentioned include the use of educational value units.

3. Dr. Walworth summarized highlights from the October and November Executive Council meetings (attached). Dr. Walker reported that he had been asked to join a task force to look at the M3/M4 curriculum as a result of a discussion held at the October Executive Council meeting. No mention of this discussion or the rationale for creating a task force is apparent in the October meeting minutes. He suggested that a more formal mechanism be instituted to provide context for the formation of a task force, including the charge and what factors led to its creation.
4. The RWJMS Faculty elected six RWJMS faculty members to the UMDNJ Faculty Senate (Pappert, Golbe, Winkelmann, Hitchcock-Degregori, Monteleone, Laskin). Along with the Senator from the Faculty Council (Walworth), the Senator from the GSBS at RWJMS (Stock) and three Senators elected by the School of Public Health, these eleven constitute the self-formed Piscataway/New Brunswick caucus of the Senate. Lawrence Golbe and Donald Winkelmann were elected as Members-at-Large of the Senate Executive Committee. Committees of the Senate have been established. Formal recognition by the UMDNJ Board of Trustees is still pending.

5a. Dr. Sunita Kramer, Chair of the RWJMS Research Committee and Dr. Celine Gelinas, Associate Dean for Research, responded to questions regarding the development of new policies regarding salary recovery from grants, indirect cost sharing and research space. Dr. Kramer noted that the policies were presented to the Committee for discussion and comment in April 2011. Those comments and responses to them were included in the document presented to the Executive Council in September 2011. Dr. Gelinas noted that responses from some individual departments had been received. The process by which the Dean will respond to these suggestions or whether the feedback to the Dean will be communicated to the Research Committee is not clear.

5b. Dr. Walworth reported that the Faculty Council website is up. Faculty Council members agreed that their email addresses could be posted on the membership list. Dr. Stock made specific suggestions regarding the site including a link to upcoming meetings and agendas and a suggestion box.

5c. Dr. DiCicco-Bloom reported on the development of Rules and Procedures for the Council. He has shared a draft with members of the Faculty Council Development Committee for their insight and will circulate the draft to the Council in the near future.

6a. Those who attended the meeting with the Rutgers New Brunswick Faculty Council Executive Committee reported that the encounter was educational for all present. There will be a need to educate RU faculty regarding the roles and responsibilities of clinical faculty. The NBFCEC suggested creation of a list of priority issues.

6b. The Council discussed mechanisms to encourage faculty participation on Integration Teams and Implementation Committees for the proposed merger of RWJMS with Rutgers. The Council agreed to delay this discussion until a later meeting pending increased clarity regarding the proposed merger of RWJMS with Rutgers.

6c. Dr. Walker reported that new faculty members report encountering a two-month waiting period before enrollment in the State Health Benefits Program.