Recommendations to the Dean following the July 12, 2011 Faculty Council meeting

1. The Faculty Council discussed the proposed plan for departmental reassignments of faculty and the proposed elimination of two basic science departments. The Council notes that little information regarding the proposal has been shared with faculty in clinical departments, yet the manner in which this proposal is handled and executed is of concern to all. The Council acknowledged that the Dean has stated his desire for faculty input and has scheduled a Faculty Forum to discuss the reorganization plan on July 21, at 2 p.m. on the Piscataway campus, but notes that V-tel arrangements to New Brunswick are not in place. With regard to the reorganization plan:

   i. The Council requests that arrangements be made for V-tel communication to New Brunswick for the July 21 Faculty Forum to encourage participation by all faculty.

   ii. The Council recommends that the proposed reorganization plan be presented and discussed at the next regularly scheduled Dean’s Faculty Meeting, and that the Dean seek approval of the proposed departmental structure prior to reassignment of faculty, initiation of departmental name changes or elimination of departments.

   iii. The Council recommends that the Office of Faculty Affairs form a Task Force of faculty to evaluate the impact of a reduction in the number of basic science (preclinical) departments on the composition of Standing Committees dictated in the Bylaws of RWJMS. Specifically, a number of Standing Committees will be impacted because they have defined membership criteria based on representation from basic science (preclinical) departments.

2. The Council requests that Human Resources issue a summary to the Faculty of the impact of changes to state worker health benefits due to legislation signed by the Governor. The Faculty Council recognizes that matters of compensation and benefits are critical to retention and recruitment of faculty, which directly affects the academic mission of the school.

3. The Faculty Council approved a ballot proposal regarding election of Senators representing RWJMS to the UMDNJ Faculty Senate (see attached). The Council seeks the Dean’s approval to send this proposal by electronic ballot to the Faculty of RWJMS.

4. The Faculty Council requests that the administration consider the use and support of WebEx for future Council meetings to facilitate participation.