

Faculty Senate Minutes
October 8, 2015

1. Call to order

Richard Sher called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

2. Roll Call

The following voting members were present: W. Barnes, D. Blackmore, A. Bose, D. Bunker, Y. Ding, J. Fjermestad, I. Gatley, S. Gopalakrishnan, H. Grebel, Q. Jones, A. Klobucar, J. McHugh, E. Michalopoulou, Z. Qiu, A. Rosato, A. Saadeghvaziri, A. Schuman, R. Sher, L. Simon, R. Sodhi, A. Sohn, G. Thomas, and A. Zarzycki

The following non-voting members were present: J. Bechtold (for K. Passerini), K. Belfield, E. Bishof (for D. Ullman), B. Blatzis, R. Caudill, F. Deek, A. Dhawan, U. Gauchat, E. Hou (for M. Kam), G. Mass, K. Riismandel, M. Rusinkiewicz, R. Sweeney, John Vito d'Antonio-Beratagnoli

The following Chairpersons of FS standing committees and invited guests were present: C. Brooks, B. Reynolds, N. Steffen, S. Zivras

3. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

The minutes from the September 17, 2015 meeting were approved.

4. Report of the President of Faculty Senate

The report included the 2020 Vision Steering Committee (graduation rate, retention rate, Faculty renewal, research infrastructure, reputation); service on Faculty Senate and University Senate standing committees; plan for Course Evaluations; Provost's decision not to place a Faculty Senate representative on the Academic Leadership Council; Faculty diversity and hiring practices; limitation on number of courses taught by adjuncts; plans for the upcoming Faculty Meeting.

5. Committee Reports – Vice President

Dan Bunker reported that a representative is needed from Faculty Senate to serve on CGE and University Senate committees.

Eliza Michalopoulou reported on the Committee on Undergraduate Education. Motion seconded and passed unanimously (with one abstention) to approve the changes in the CUE report, including a reduction of credits for the History and LTC BA degrees from 123 to 120.

Bill Reynolds reported on the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Technology.

Richard Sweeney reported on the Committee on Information Technology, Library and Academic Resources. He discussed the Virtual Library and other software recommended by the Humanities Department. He also informed the senate that Professor Ravindra made a presentation to the committee. The minutes and resources items are available at Researchguides.njit.edu/citlar.

Chuck Brooks reported on the Committee on Academic Assessment. He distributed and discussed two documents: Middle States Commission on Higher Education Standards and the Assessment Information for Middle States.

6. New Business: Provost's Report on Faculty Renewal

Provost Deek made a presentation on the University's plan for Faculty Renewal. He discussed a draft proposal regarding the Faculty Separation Plan, in which benefits will be determined on the basis of the total of years of service at NJIT plus age. Faculty who retire through the Faculty Separation Plan will be replaced at the rate of 1.5 to 1, and it is expected that the target of 345 NJIT Faculty will be reached by 2021.

7. Faculty Handbook Revisions

TAC – Amit Bose gave an overview of the revision of the TAC policy. It was moved and seconded to accept the changes in the policy as posted on the Faculty Senate website. Motion unanimously approved.

Amit Bose led the discussion on revised language concerning the composition of Department P&T Committees and the University P&T Committee. It was moved and seconded to accept the revisions regarding the composition of Department P&T Committees as posted on the Faculty Senate website. The motion passed: in favor (15); opposed (2); abstention (1). A motion to accept the revisions regarding the composition of the University P&T Committee as posted on the Faculty Senate website unanimously passed.

Richard Sher led a discussion on Part 6: Faculty Development of the revised Faculty Handbook, as amended and posted on the Faculty Senate website. It was moved and seconded to approve Part 6, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

Richard Sher led a discussion of Parts 1: University Administration and Shared Governance and 2: The Faculty and Instructional Staff, which will be prepared for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

8. Committee on Honors Education

John Bechtold, Associate Dean of the Honors College, presented a proposal to establish a Committee on Honors Education as a Standing Faculty Senate Committee. Discussion followed, including consideration of Kyle Riismandel's suggestion that it might be advisable for the committee to have a representative from the Lecturers and Educators Congress. This item will be brought back for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.