

NJIT (Ecclesia) Institute Faculty Meeting

March 31, 2021, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

WebEx

Presiding: Denis Blackmore, Faculty Senate President

1. Approval of the February 17, 2021 Institute Faculty Meeting minutes. The minutes of the 2/17/21 IFM are posted along with the agenda and related material for this meeting at: <https://www5.njit.edu/facultysenate/>
2. Faculty Senate Report
3. Y. Perl: What is our status for renewing R1 next time and what needs to be done?
4. C. Borcea: Approval of new Department of Data Science in YWCC
5. W. Hubbi: Proposal for NJIT to make use of MOOC
6. A. Bose: Assessing the status of SHARED in Shared Governance. Since its inception at NJIT, shared governance has required a balance of action, restraint and oversight by both the faculty and administration. For the first several years, I believe both sides acted well within the spirit of cooperation. However, in the past few years, the administration has made increasingly more decisions unilaterally without concern for shared governance. Here are just a subset of the examples that I am aware of: (1) The formation of the Pandemic Recovery Team with little consultation of the Faculty Senate; (2) The decision in summer 2020 to run 60% of Fall 2020 classes in the converged learning mode without any meaningful input from faculty and departments; (3) The decision over the past few years to insert a Dean's review of the short list in Faculty Searches, despite there being no agreement by the Faculty Senate for such; (4) The postponement, or attempt to do so, of Chairperson elections in NCE and YWCC.

It was only by intervention and oversight by the Faculty Senate that some of these issues were rectified. The main question is the following: what empowered the Administration to make these unilateral decisions, in violation of shared governance, and how do we, as a faculty, ensure that the Administration begins to again abide by the rules that had worked in the past years?
7. S. Chester: (1) Placement of incoming students --- Over the past years (not just now that we are online, but even prior) I have noticed that the number of unprepared students coming into my classes are increasing. It's almost like the pre-reqs never happened for an increasing near majority. Sometimes they literally do not know what is the sine of an angle. Is there a placement exam for transfer students? (2) Methods for the faculty senate --- Now that classes have moved online, this rapid change has shown me an opportunity for faculty senate. I suggest we make a canvas page for the faculty senate. This would enable us to disseminate information without the need of the administration. For example, there is no need for a dean to pass along information, with one click we can pass it along to ourselves. This also allows for a webpage that is visible to all faculty, but not public to the world. Similar to how the strategic plans like 2020 and 2025 were disseminated on the pipeline prior to going fully public. We can do the same for ourselves. This also allows for voting, and comments on documents that might be in the pipeline while being worked on by the various FS committees. While probably nobody would look, it does mean nobody can be surprised when something comes up for vote. (3) The Dean of Students Office for Integrity seems overworked --- I believe that we only have one single person in the entire university, Learie Nurse, that deals with academic integrity issues from the dean of student's side. It is probably impossible for one person alone to do that job for a university of our size. Can we do something to get this one guy some help?
8. Open Forum: Questions, suggestions, discussion (time permitting)

Institute Faculty Meeting Minutes
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Presiding: Denis Blackmore, Faculty Senate President

1. Approval of the February 17, 2021 Institute Faculty Meeting minutes
Motion to approve the 2/17/2021 minutes by D. Blackmore and seconded by A. Rosato. The minutes were approved with 0 no's and 1 abstention.
2. Faculty Senate Report
 - Robert Cohen in contact w/ the Presidential Search Firm
 - Will announce Presidential Search Committee in a day or two
 - Things are moving pretty quickly and expected to wrap up search process one month early
3. **Y. Perl:** What is our status for renewing the R1 next time and what needs to be done?
Y. Perl made his presentation on renewing R1 status. Got input from S. Zivavras and A. Dhawan. More discussions followed.
4. **Cristian Borcea:** Approval of new Department of Data Science in YWCC
Cristian Borcea presented a proposal for a Department of Data Science in YWCC. Q&A followed. Motion to approve Department of Data Science by Cristian Borcea and seconded by D. Blackmore. Motion approved with 72 yes, 5 no, and 10 abstentions.
5. **Walid Hubbi:** Proposal for NJIT to make use of MOOC
Walid Hubbi made his presentation to make use of MOOC. Discussion followed.
6. **Amit Bose:** Assessing the status of Shared Governance
Amit Bose made his presentation on assessing the status of shared governance at NJIT: In the past few years, the administration has made increasingly more decisions unilaterally. Examples include: (1) The formation of the Pandemic Recovery Team with little consultation of the Faculty Senate; (2) The decision in summer 2020 to run 60% of Fall 2020 classes in the converged mode without any meaningful input from faculty and departments; (3) The decision over the past few years to insert a Dean's review of the short list in Faculty Searches without Faculty Senate approval; (4) Postponement, or attempt thereof, of Chairperson elections in NCE and YWCC. Q&A followed.
7. **Discussion of issues raised by Shawn Chester:** (1) Placement of incoming students: Over the number of unprepared students coming into my classes is increasing. Is there a placement exam for transfer students? (2) The Faculty Senate should have a Canvas page (3) The Dean of Students Office is understaffed; help is needed.
8. Open Forum: Questions, suggestions, discussion (time permitting)
No other discussions were initiated.

Motion to end the meeting by D. Blackmore and seconded by Y. Perl.
The meeting ended at 3:57PM.