Institute Faculty Meeting

Wednesday October 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 2:31PM

The April 29, 2020 and July 29, 2020 Institute Faculty Meeting minutes were both approved unanimously.

Faculty Senate President Blackmore presented his report, stating that:

- Challenging times with pandemic and major concerns
- Faculty Senate has tried to maintain close contact with concerned parties
- Making efforts to broaden the lines of communication, enhance openness among the administration, faculty and other NJIT constituents
- Had extra meetings to hear information from the administration and pandemic related concerns, especially instructional delivery.
- Meetings with Provost about openness and communication with administration
- Presidential search procedure. Working with the Board of Trustees and on search committee composition and confirming timeline.
- Robert Cohen, Chair of the Board of Trustees (BOT) will make a presentation at the next Faculty Senate Meeting and next Institute Faculty Meeting
- Introduced the new Executive Committee members

Next President Joel Bloom gave his report: ***Covid-19*** report-surveillance and waste water testing has helped keep the low number of cases. Continue to wear masks and keep the campus safe. Encouraged students to stay on campus if they do not have places to travel. Keeping the academic calendar as is for now. ***Budget***-July 1 the state funding was only 42% of what it should be for the quarter. The Governor passed the budget on October 1 for the balance of FY21. Received full state funding for the balanced FY21 budget for the second, third, and fourth quarter. On the hunt for $12 million appropriation through at least 3 of the federal funding sources, 1 or 2 of them that come through the state. Full funding for the remaining 3 quarters of this fiscal year, the federal money, and also received some outcome-based allocation (an additional $2 million) for the balance of this fiscal year. Advocating for the inclusion of special STEM funding or at least funding for engineering and computer science. With all of this funding, there should be no need further requests for givebacks and can return some of the money we had to take out of unrestricted endowed reserves. Should be able to finish the year and beyond with no more cuts to operating budgets. Budget is in good shape, but can change if NJIT has to close again as it did in March because of refunds to students. Another supplemental appropriation NJIT received was from the Microfabrication Innovation Center (MIC), $3.7 million for equipment, grants, and other funding. In November the BOT votes on the budget, which shall be uploaded on the website. ***Enrollment Concerns*** – Demographic decline of 3% a year in the Northeast. Concerned about application numbers (500 heads less from this fall) and student debt. 70% of operating budget is based on enrollment, not State funds. Talked briefly about the nature and structure of the BOT, the Presidential Search, and diversity at NJIT. Q&A followed in which the President promised to better communicate organizational reductions in the future.

Then Provost Fadi Deek gave his report: *Student & Instructor Surveys-* 7600+ students in converged learning classes, 25% of them responded to the surveys. While attendance has been declining, it has stabilized over the last 2 weeks. More than half of students, 56%, enrolled in converged learning have attended or are attending classes in person. The 44% that are not, told us that they have concerns about safety and personal. 40% of those not attending find it convenient to do remote converged. Resident students are attending in large numbers: 86% of them. The other 14% not attending classes in person cited health and safety concerns, but also convenience of remote converged classes. Learning experience: 1/3 of students are saying they are learning the most in the in-person sessions, 1/3 are learning in either converged mode, 15% are say they are learning better with the remote, and about 20% say they are not learning. 60% of students say they have had issues with audio, the largest technical issue, and also video, projectors, and camera problems. 40% of students have issues with proctoring exams. 2/3 of students said that back to classroom works well or even better, but 60% of instructors said it does not work as well. Satisfaction with converged learning is higher among advanced students than the freshmen and sophomores. Computing students are more likely to attend remote converged classes. 55% of instructors responded to the survey, and we heard from all ranks. 70% of instructors said converged learning has already been adapted into their pedagogy and it is working well. 60% of instructors said that there needs to be improved interaction, 30% said that students learn better in the face -to- face modality, 38% feel that students are learning equally well in either mode, and roughly half said they prefer to teach remotely. Want to improve on technology and invest in additional technology improvements. Feedback from these surveys will help plan for the Spring semester and is with the registrar. Then Provost Deek spoke about what to expect in the Spring semester with converged learning. Q&A with discussion followed.

Andrew Christ provided information and answered questions regarding the changes in the mailroom. Atam Dhawan provided information and answered questions regarding research and grants.

The Meeting ended at 4:09PM. Motion to adjourn by A. Rosato and second by Y. Perl.