

Minutes of NJIT Faculty Meeting of October 24, 2018

Presiding: Eliza Michalopoulou, Faculty Senate President

I. Convening of meeting

The meeting was convened at 2:40 pm by the Faculty Senate President, Eliza Michalopoulou and a quorum was confirmed.

II. Approval of minutes

As a quorum was present, the minutes of the April 11, 2018 Faculty Meeting were moved, seconded and approved.

III. Faculty Senate (FS) report

FS President Michalopoulou reported as follows:

- A. Introduction of Faculty Senators, FS Vice President, Ellen Thomas, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) comprising the FS President, Vice-President, Denis Blackmore, Stephen Pemberton and Anthony Rosato.
- B. The FSEC is making good progress working with the Board of Trustees on a search procedure for NJIT presidents. The new procedure is nearing completion and the resulting proposed change in the Handbook language should be ready shortly for a full faculty vote.
- C. We are actively working with David Ullman to ameliorate the problems caused by outsourcing the helpdesk.
- D. We are taking a fresh look at teaching evaluations and plan to have an open discussion on them at the next faculty meeting.
- E. The FS has been considering many important educational, administrative, financial, infrastructure and faculty governance issues, aided in large part by many standing committees. Some of the topical issues include evaluation of administrators, fiscal planning for NJIT, effective means for giving exams in online courses, and the procedure for choosing distinguished professors.

IV. Recognition of new faculty

The FS President introduced the new faculty members, which was followed by applause from the assembled body.

V. Provost's report

Provost Fadi Deek reported on some positive developments and important current activities such as:

- A. There shall be about 20 new faculty hires this year and we expect to reach the 2020 Vision goal of 345.
- B. The undergraduate enrollment is growing (with a 2,177-freshman class this year) towards the 2020 Vision goal of 15,000 with no reduction in SAT scores and MS enrollment, although down somewhat over previous years, has stabilized with no reduction in admission requirements. We are well on our way to achieving the 2020 Vision goal of doubling the Ph.D. enrollment, without making compromises in requirements. NJIT's retention rate is increasing (due to enhanced

remediation efforts) and the graduation rates are increasing: the 4-year rate is now 40% and the 5-year rate is 62% and clearly heading to 70%.

- C. Through the concerted efforts of the NJIT faculty, administration and staff, we have risen from 140 to 106 in the U.S. News and World Report rankings of national universities and from 64 to 46 (sweet reflection) for public universities. Moreover, we have improved dramatically in our Princeton Review evaluation. We expect to improve these rankings by increased efforts to improve in such areas as high school counselor reviews.
- D. Preparations for the next strategic 5-year plan (2020+) have begun in earnest. We are enlisting the Faculty Senate along with several working groups to put our best face forward. Part of the process shall be to identify new benchmarks in terms of peer and aspirational institutions, all in aid of “perfecting the model.”

In response to questions from the faculty, the Provost promised that every effort would be made, mainly through more effective recruiting not lower our admission standards as we raise enrollment to the 2020 Vision levels.

VI. Open discussion on teaching infrastructure

There was a lively discussion on teaching infrastructure that elicited numerous complaints, concerns and suggestions, many of which have appeared on a current survey such as the following:

- A. Many classrooms are in dire need of repair.
- B. Quite a few vital technical resources are outdated and/or in need of maintenance and repair – which is something that new students observe, leading to invidious comparisons with what they had in high school and possibly poor assessments by high school counselors.
- C. Needed improvements of teaching related resources take too long.
- D. There is often too much noise from ongoing construction.
- E. There is much teaching related equipment (for example, 3D printers in Architecture) that require modernization and regular maintenance staffing.
- F. In general, more infrastructure help is needed.
- G. There is a tendency to fill classrooms beyond intended occupancies.
- H. Online courses are not being given sufficient attention nor being provided with the resources they require to be successful.
- I. Finally, a thorough teaching infrastructure plan needs to be drafted to set priorities.

VII. Other business

As the hour was drawing late and there were no further pressing issue, it was decided that other business could wait until the next faculty meeting, which is scheduled for December 5, 2018.

VIII. Meeting adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.