

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of the New Jersey Institute of Technology

February 24, 2016

I. Convening of the meeting

Richard Sher, Faculty Senate President

The meeting of the NJIT faculty was convened at 3:04 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 2, 2015 faculty meeting were moved, seconded, and approved by acclamation.

III. Report of the Faculty Senate President

Richard Sher

A. FS President's Presentation to the NJIT Board of Trustees – February 4, 2016

Richard Sher reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that he made to the Board of Trustees on the progress of shared governance. The presentation highlighted areas of improvement, including streamlining and revision of the Faculty Handbook, but also pointed out six major concerns and challenges going forward: priority of academics; improvement of STEM research facilities; increased faculty hiring; more faculty diversity (especially women); course scheduling reform; and a new presidential search policy in line with best practices, as recommended by the consultant hired by the BoT to review shared governance.

B. Faculty Evaluations of Administrators

This spring Faculty will have an opportunity to evaluate key administrators, in keeping with the policy in the Faculty Handbook. There are ongoing discussions with the administration about ways to ensure that the results of these evaluations result in feedback that leads to improvements in university administration.

C. Two New Evaluations by Faculty

1. "Customer Service" evaluations of support departments will be carried out for the first time later in the spring.
2. A modified version of the AAUP survey on shared governance is being prepared by Faculty Senate and the administration. This will be used for the Periodic Review Report for Middle States that is due in spring 2017.

D. Course Scheduling Reform

Thanks to the efforts of Yehoshua Perl and his team and a Business Process Analysis organized by Charlie Fey, a new, hybrid model of class scheduling that gives academic departments more autonomy and control while still protecting student scheduling needs will go into effect for spring 2017.

III. Faculty Handbook Revisions

A. Part Seven: Selection and Evaluation of Administrators

7.1 Selection of Administrators

7.2 Faculty Evaluation of Administrators

Richard Sher presented for discussion and vote both sections of Part Seven of the

streamlined and reorganized Faculty Handbook, which the Faculty Senate has approved. A motion was made and seconded to approve Part Seven as posted on the Faculty Senate website. The motion was approved, 56 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

B. Revision of Section 3.3: Selection and Appointment of Department Chairpersons

Amit Bose, Chair of the Faculty Senate's Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, presented for discussion and vote several proposed revisions to this section, as posted on the Faculty Senate website. These include standardizing the terms of Department Chairpersons to start on July 1, establishing a term limit of three consecutive terms as well as a mechanism for overriding this limit, opening all Department Chairperson elections to all eligible candidates, establishing that the Elections coordinator must be someone outside the Department, and establishing that the Elections Coordinator must distribute the final list of candidates within ten business days of appointment.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed revisions to Section 3.3, as posted on the Faculty Senate website. The motion was approved, 48 in favor, 7 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 PM.

Dr. Tamara Gund – Secretary of the Faculty