

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 5, 2014

1. Call to order

Amitabha Bose called to order the regular meeting of the Faculty Senate at 2:38 pm.

2. Roll Call

The following voting members were present: D. Blackmore, A. Bose, D. Bunker, Y. Ding, J. Federici, I. Gatley, B. Hunter, A. Klobucar, N. Maher, E. Michalopoulou, Y. Perl, Z. Qiu, A. Rosato, A. Schuman, L. Simon, A. Sohn, and C. Sylla.

The following non-voting members or others were present: B. Baltzis, S. Brito, J. Campbell, F. Deek, A. Dhawan, C. Fey, M. Guibault, K. Kramer, S. Pemberton, D. Ullman, R. Sher, R. Sweeney, and J. Vito

3. Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

The minutes from the October 22, 2014 meeting were approved.

4. Reports:

Ad Hoc Committee on Undergraduate Retention/Graduation

E. Michalopoulou reported on ways to improve the retention/graduation rates. She noted that EOP students have a retention rate better than that of other NJIT students and a graduation rate that is comparable. The committee has reached out to T. Howell and S. Morgan to develop ideas on how to transfer EOP's success in retention/graduation to the NJIT student population as a whole. The idea of a mandatory summer boot camp for incoming students who have not placed into first year courses was discussed. Retention difficulties at the sophomore year were also discussed.

Grade Appeal Policy

E. Michalopoulou gave an overview of the most recent changes to the policy. A motion to approve the Grade Appeal Policy was unanimously approved. The policy will be forwarded to the Provost for implementation.

Committee on Faculty Rights & Responsibilities

R. Sher reported on recommended changes to the Faculty Handbook received from Dr. Zeddie Bowen, a consultant hired by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Bowen suggested the following non-controversial changes:

- The faculty handbook should be streamlined and made more accessible using electronic links to another document which would reduce it from 150 pages to approximately 50-60 pages.
- The authoritative version of each document should be maintained by the appropriate stakeholder group.
- Updating and clarifying text and correcting all errors.

The Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (CFRR) recommends that these changes be made. The FS as a whole was in agreement.

Dr. Bowen gave suggestions regarding several “controversial” issues, such as Active-Service Modified Duties Policy (time off for children); Appeals in the P&T Process; Restructuring of Academic Units; composition of the Provost’s Search Committee and the procedure for the President search. R. Sher informed the Faculty Senate that the CFRR was still debating whether and how to incorporate these suggestions.

Professor of Practice

T. Schuman reported on the Professor of Practice. Questions that arose include: Will it benefit faculty? Is it available for full time or part time employment? What is the hiring procedure? The issue will be further discussed in CFRR and at a future FS meeting.

Course Scheduling

- A.** Sohn reported on Course Scheduling and the need for changes.
- C.** Fey agreed to a request that a subgroup of the senate work with the Registrar’s office to see if changes could be made to improve the system. The meeting adjourned at 4.35 p.m.