

The College of New Jersey Staff Senate
March 18, 2009
Minutes

Present: Jim Boatwright, Rebecca Breese, Ginny Brown, Barbara Clark, Rebecca Daley, Larry Gage, Diane Gruenberg, Megan Guicheteau, Lynette Harris, Beverly Kalinowski, Megan Krause, Rich Kroth, Christine Kucha, Kawanna Leggett, Amy Loprinzi, Magda Manetas, Matt Middleton, Kay Miklosz, Rasheed Muse, Joanne Popowski, Arlene Radonsky, Paula Rainey, Lakita Rowe, Steve Scaffa, Nino Scarpati, Jason Schweitzer, Sharon Shivers, Brunelle Tellis, Janice Vermeychuk, Alexis Zahorsky

Excused: Sharon Bancroft, Kevin Ewell, Jason Neely, Andy Stutzman

- I. Approval of Minutes
Minutes of February 18, 2009 meeting approved with correction: Section III d. Dean Search Committee Updates – Lynette Harris represents us on the Dean of Business search: Lynette was not present to report, but it is our understanding that this dean search is the most advanced of the three currently underway as a search firm was hired to manage the process.
- II. President's Report
 - a. VP Nominations – three potential candidates for this position; this election follows the senate election
 - b. Joint Planning Council Review – presidents of the three governance bodies have identified those governance councils who do not appear to meet on a regular basis, if at all. These include the Enrollment Planning Council and Diversity and Human Relations Planning Council. In addition, the Staff Senate is advocating for immediate installation of Staff Senate representation on the two committees with no staff representation: Liberal Learning Program Council and the Honors and Scholars Program Council. Our concern is that, beyond what we feel is missed in any institutional discussion that does not have staff members present, is the potential for a false distinction between “academic” work councils and other work councils.
 - c. Alan Dawley Prize – named after the revered faculty member, this prize will go to a student who has exhibited the best work on a social justice issue. Dr. Mort Winston is the Director of the Center for the Study of Social Justice.
 - d. El-Ayouty Lecture – Co-sponsored by the division of Student Affairs as a Multicultural Lecture and the History Department; scheduled for March 24th at noon in Loser 106.
 - e. All College Disciplinary Board – look for an announcement to recruit for staff representation on this judicial board, which hears cases where a finding of responsibility may lead to suspension or expulsion from the College.
- III. Old Business
 - a. Four Collaborative Initiatives – Nino reviewed an amendment that has been made to the original Center for Teaching and Learning Program Council. This amendment added a faculty member and a staff member. The final membership will consist of 7 faculty, 4 staff and 3 students. Of the 4 staff members one should be appointed from Student Affairs, one from IT and two from Staff Senate. Please contact Nino or Magda by April 2nd if interested in any of the other three initiatives: Transitions, Leadership or Healthy Campus.

- b. Dean Search Committees – Lakita reported that School of Business Dean candidates will be interviewed off campus this weekend, with the plan to bring finalists to campus in mid-April. Lynette reported that School of Arts and Communication Studies Dean candidates are under review, with finalists to be identified for the next stage. In both searches, the Staff Senate identified entrepreneurial and enrollment management skills as very desirable and we were encouraged to attend any open for a scheduled during their campus interviews.
- c. Green Dot Campaign – Magda explained that this initiative, created by Dorothy Edwards of the University of Kentucky, represents a new approach to anti-violence work on college campuses. Based on scholarship related to Bystander Education efficacy, it focuses on influential faculty, staff and students, who can, with training, be at the forefront of a culture change. Ms. Edwards will present to the Faculty and Staff Senates on March 25th at 9:00 a.m. in the Library Auditorium. Please make every effort to attend.

IV. Reports

Staff Senate Councils:

Elections and Constitution – Jackie Deitch-Stackhouse was approved as an Associate Senator. Ballots for the general body election will be distributed soon – senators should vote and remind their colleagues to do so as well. We have several potential VP candidates and this election will follow the general body election.

Staff Development and Recognition – Will be co-sponsoring the Green Dot Initiative and encourages membership to attend Ms. Edward’s session on March 25th at 9:00 a.m. in the Library Auditorium. There have been a few glitches with the Staff Newsletter but it should go out before the April Senate meeting. Senators should send any updates on committee work to Beverly Kalinowski at bkalinow@tcnj.edu by March 29th.

Special Events and Community Building – Will continue to recruit for TASK volunteers for 4/16, 5/21 and 6/10. They are also collaborating with HR on “Take Your Child to Work Day”, scheduled for 4/23. They are in particular need of more presentations on careers. If interested in participating, contact Kevin Ewell at ewell@tcnj.edu. There was a great deal of interest in the Trenton Thunder social event, so look for this date and time to be scheduled soon. The “Relaxer” at Slocum’s on March 12th went well.

Communications and Public Relations – Working on the Staff Senate Newsletter and the recruitment flyer.

Helen Shaw Staff Excellence Award – website is www.tcnj.edu/~hshaw. The committee is currently accepting nominations, with a due date of April 18th. Senators are encouraged to nominate their colleagues.

Ad Hoc Committees, Commissions, Task Forces:

Presidents Climate Control Committee – the consultant team has been to every location on campus conducting their energy audit. Results will be shared with the committee shortly and recommendations based on this information will be made.

Police Captain Search – Committee is in the final stages of ranking the candidates and moving to phone and campus interviews. Janice Vermeychuk, our representative on the committee, thanked the senate for their suggested interview questions, which will be used in the interview process.

Planning and Program Councils:

Advising and Student Support – Information on assigned advisors may be sent via PAWS to all new enrolled students

External Affairs – President Gitenstein meeting with legislators to discuss budget concerns; Pat Coleman-Boatwright is recruiting for staff (particularly those who may live in the local community) to join Town and Gown Together (TACT) – contact Pat if you are interested.

Facilities and Construction – a number of community members have had tours of the new apartments, which will be named Phelps Hall and Hausdoerffer Hall (after first “Principal” of the College Phelps and alumnus/faculty/administrator Bill Hausdoerffer.

Finance and Budget – see New Business re: state budget appropriation. It was noted that an organization called “NJ Comfort Partners” can visit homes to make recommendations for energy savings – website: www.njcleanenergy.com

Information Technology – Study underway on telecommunications systems, trying to determine how to best meet our needs (for example more integration with cell phone systems) – Brad Coburn may attend senate meeting to review findings. Another initiative is one attempting to improve collaboration between IT and academic departments/faculty.

International Education – Working to design an interdisciplinary faculty-led summer program; working on safety protocols for international programs.

Teacher Education – Design work continuing on new School of Education building; Urban Education focus in development

College Governance Committees:

CAP – Discussing student academic overload and addressing standardization of term “specialization”

CPP – Approved recommendation (with amendments addressed above) for establishment of Teaching and Learning governance program council.

CSCC – Conducting open for a on Involuntary Health and Safety Withdrawal Policy – 3/23 at 11:30 a.m and 3/24 at 4:00 – senators are encouraged to attend. Will approve recommendations from Student Affairs for student awards and is continuing to work on Student Travel Policy.

Steering – Discussing impact of interdisciplinarity on Reappointment and Tenure Process; also discussing majors/double majors.

V. New Business

TCNJ Budget Forecast – Senators are encouraged to read the president’s response to the governor’s budget announcement. Senate discussion noted that the staff is very concerned with the potential impact of and methodology that might be applied to furloughs (should this be applied at TCNJ), especially if on top of wage freezes. In addition, staff are concerned about the impact on their ability to function, should open positions go unfilled, particularly in light of the level of cuts to staff/administrative positions in the past few years. It will be some time before we know what the state allocation will be (post legislative review) and the Treasurer will be meeting with CPP and governance body leadership this spring to keep them apprised of college budget status.

