

Minutes of the Faculty Meeting of April 30, 2009

Present: Eric Allender, Haim Baruh, Barbara Bender, Paul Clemens, Wendie Cohick, Geralyn Colvil, Linda Costa, Martha Cotter, Teresa Delcorso, Evelyn Erenrich, Douglas Eveleigh, Max Haggblom, Liviu Iftode, Shamir Khan, Lisa Klein, John Kolassa, Douglas Kruse, Shaurya Prakash, Alan Prince, Gary Rendsburg, Derek Schilling, Mary Ann Schultz, Marcy Schwartz, Craig Scott, Glenn Shafer, Troy Shinbrot, Deborah Silver, Ann St. John, Lawrence Stromberg, Carl Swisher, Dietrich Tschanz, Barbara Turpin, Kathryn Uhrich and Changlu Wang

Presiding: Harvey Waterman, Associate Dean

Associate Dean Waterman conveyed the regrets of Interim Dean Kukor, who was ill and unable to attend.

The minutes of the meeting of December 17, 2008 were approved.

Report of the Dean

Associate Dean Waterman reported that the search for a permanent dean had been unsuccessful and that Interim Dean Kukor had agreed to stay on in that capacity. A new search is contemplated.

The disastrous budget reductions forced upon the University have affected support for graduate students. The School of Arts and Sciences has cut 10 fellowships and the Graduate School has cut nine. We are all now seeking ways to find non-state dollars for the support of graduate education, through sponsored students, training grants, and master's programs that attract tuition-paying students. Much has already been done in this vein and we must continue to explore such opportunities.

Recommendations of the Executive Council:

New Courses APPROVED
Proposed M.A. and Certificate in Jewish Studies APPROVED
Proposed M.S. and Ph.D. in Microbial Biology APPROVED

Associate Dean Waterman explained that the program name was agreed to in consultation with the leadership of the existing program in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. That program will be considering its own scope and possible name change over the coming months.

The proposed program was approved.

Proposed joint Ph.D. with Management (Newark) APPROVED

This proposed program would enable students earning Ph.D.s in New Brunswick program to also earn a Ph.D. in Management. All requirements of both Ph.D. programs would be met except that only one dissertation would be written, with a joint committee. The degree would be awarded by both the Graduate School-New Brunswick and the Graduate School-Newark. There was considerable discussion of this, involving clarification of the arrangement, comparisons to existing joint

and dual degree arrangements, and the propriety of awarding a joint degree that allows a student to claim Ph.D. status in two different fields while having written only one dissertation.

The proposal was approved by a large majority, with two dissents and four abstentions.

Report on Graduate Admissions:

Acting Director Linda Costa reported that Rutgers Day produced a lot of inquiries and some have been referred to the programs.

Ms. Costa detailed a considerable number of improvements and enhancements to the application and the Grad Portal that have been accomplished or are in development. Among these were the addition of email addresses to the required information from the applicant, email notification to those not recommended for admission, email distribution of requests for financial documentation, space for self-reporting of the TOEFL and IELTS scores, and a question regarding felony convictions. Tabs are being developed for supplemental questions asked by the programs, consideration being given to the upload of writing samples, and a new facility for resending requests for recommendations. Portal enhancements include information on degrees conferred.

Applications were up in the current year, as were the numbers coming, up 4.4%. Quality indicators showed a slight uptick. There was a slight decline in international applications, reversing the proportions of the previous year.

New Business:

Professor Baruh offered the following resolution:

That the faculty thanks Jerry Kukor for his excellent leadership as Interim Dean, thanks him, further, for agreeing to continue in that capacity, and wishes him a speedy recovery.

The resolution was approved by acclamation.

Associate Dean Waterman reminded everyone that the Graduate School Spring reception and awards ceremony would take place at 4:30 in the Life Sciences atrium.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.