Institute Faculty Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm.

Faculty Senate (FS) President Thomas presented her report, stating that

- There is a Shared Governance Survey going on intended for Middle States 2022 self-study, please fill it out
- There will be an update on the course scheduling simulation in April.
- Last year’s proposal on the evaluation of upper administrators was not approved by the administration. CFRR is working on a new proposal. The FS is considering running senior administrator evaluation with the existing process in April.
- Test profile pages have been populated with information from Digital Measures. Faculty should check pages for accuracy. Pages will go live at the end of March.
- The Faculty Senate is working with the Provost to establish updated timeline/guidelines for promotion to Distinguished Professor based on the new selection process.
- There was a meeting between the Executive Committees (ECs) of the FS and the Board of Trustees (BOT). Topics discussed were Capital Renewal and Replacement, where the Board expressed strong support, and the Presidential Search Process (PSP). The FS EC members present expressed a concern about the timeline of the PSP. The BOT EC members assured the FS that the pre-search process will be completed by the end of 2020. The active PSP will take place between the summer of 2021 and January 2022. The trustees stated that we need to come up with the profile of the incoming president, who has to have the necessary qualities to help NJIT fulfill its vision.

Subsequently President Bloom gave his report. He began by saying that his term ends in two years and four months and that he will not seek an extension.

Dr. Bloom said that we have recently been ranked as #1 in student economic mobility by the New York Times and Forbes. We also have an R1 Carnegie classification and we are included in the top 100 national universities by US News and World Report. We have been recognized for making a $2.8 billion annual economic impact in NJ by the Econsult FY2018 study. We need to maintain our recognition and strive for continuous improvement, which began in 2012.

Dr. Bloom talked about the challenge of the decrease in funding by the state for NJIT over time, while at the same time enrollment increased substantially. There was Outcomes-Based (OBA) funding during 2020 from the state: NJIT received $1.2M. The criteria for OBA are head-count driven.

We need to build on a strong foundation with our 2025 Strategic Plan and we also need (and are in the process of putting together) long-term budget planning.

Addressing a faculty member’s question on the future of Kupfrian, Dr. Bloom said that the building will be improved. A faculty member also asked how faculty can help to increase the graduation rate, about which President Bloom expressed concerns, and discussion ensued on how faculty and students could be better connected.
Answering a question on NJII, Dr. Bloom said that there are thoughts for NJII to become a more separate entity.

Provost Deek presented his report next. First Provost Deek reported on the 2020 Vision KPIs. SAT scores have risen and scholarly research and hiring have been successful. We need to improve in student satisfaction with the educational value of our courses and our instruction, diversity in students, faculty, and administration, and technology facilities.

The priorities for 2025 are students, faculty, research, resources, and prominence, for which we set KPIs. Currently, the Budget Office is performing a cost analysis for NJIT 2025. We will prioritize objectives and strategies and eliminate those that are unaffordable. We will then finalize KPIs and develop targets and submit the cost analysis report and final plan to the BOT in April.

NJIT is currently performing a self-study for Middle Stated re-accreditation. The study is very important to NJIT and engages all campus constituents. The initial self-study visit from the MSCHE Vice President will be on March 31.

Provost Deek also announced that there is an IT transformation plan.

Dr. Lazer then encouraged all faculty to participate in the survey on the Great Colleges to Work For.