

## **Minutes**

### **NJIT Institute Faculty Meeting**

**December 9, 2020 2:30-4:30PM**

### **WebEx**

**Presiding: Denis Blackmore, Faculty Senate President**

- I. Convening of the meeting  
The meeting started at 2:30PM
- II. Approval of the October 21, 2020 Institute Faculty Meeting minutes.  
Motion to approve the minutes by W. Hubbi and seconded by A Gerbessiotis. The minutes were approved with 0 no's and 0 abstentions.
- III. Faculty Senate Report  
D. Blackmore: Handbook changes-hiring guidelines. Evaluating proposals for new courses and programs. Keeping tabs on the finances-meeting regularly with Ed Bishof, good idea of what the budget looks like, and having the financial reports posted regularly on the faculty senate website. Dealing and grappling with Covid related issues-voting on things related to teaching, protocols, and strategies, approving surveys that gauge impact on faculty and students, and also expressing opinions on instructional delivery. Will have a faculty only led Institute Faculty meeting in the Spring.
- IV. Presentation by Robert Cohen, Chair of the Board of Trustees (COBOT), Q&A  
R. Cohen: Priorities and where we are: manage the school and what the school is supposed to be doing, manage the finances so the school is running responsibly with the best quality education always in mind, and coming out of this pandemic strong and with a plan. Keep eyes on the future. The Board of Trustees is engaged in the day-to-day operations of the University. Looking towards more academic and government and industry partnerships. Utilizing certain grant applications for in-state and internationally. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are top priorities for the Board of Trustees. Expanding the NJIT brand to beyond the tri-state area for student recruitment. Infrastructure-long term what will the school look like in 2025? Presidential search-how it's performed in a transparent way, how it's taken into accountability, how it is going to take on a phased approach while keeping the school running and having Dr. Bloom, and then picking who is the best candidate (will have a lot of oversight). There is no rush and will be done correctly. Q&A with discussion followed.
- V. Presentation by President, Dr. Joel Bloom  
J. Bloom: Still searching for 4 more trustees for the Board. Talked about NJIT's standing among public universities and how funding is allocated based on certain metrics. State is looking at criteria that is not as favorable as in the past. Sent paper to new Secretary of Higher Education that will hopefully move NJIT's position higher to receive more funding. Reiterated the importance of forming relationships and connections with industry. Need to build a strong post baccalaureate capacity for training programs, such

as certificates. Touched on campus being open and the impact on freshmen and prospective students. Q&A with discussion followed.

VI. Presentation by Provost, Dr. Fadi Deek

F. Deek: Campus has remained safe, with testing the cases have remained very low. Feedback from faculty, students, and other stakeholders has been used to modify what the university does going forward. NJIT maintained Fall enrollment, hoping to repeat the same in the Spring. Winter session had a 10% increase. Areas of concerns: international and transfer students. Positives: increase in domestic master students. Spring 2021: Converged courses will be offered at undergraduate and graduate levels and bring students to campus. Strategic planning remains a priority. The state of the 2025 plan is as follows: retain the accomplishments under 2020 vision in enrollment, must increase graduation and retention rate, and improve faculty renewal. Short term strategic planning will be the guiding principles for 2025. Will aid in pandemic recovery.

VII. The meeting ended at 3:45PM. Motion to by A. Borgaonkar and seconded by E. Thomas.