

Minutes of the 9th December 2001 Meeting

I. Quorum and Call to Order — 7:15pm

Officer Attendance — Jeff Perlman, Brian Keane, Tithi Dutta Roy

II. Old Business

- A. Approval of minutes from November 11, 2001 meeting —approved
- B. Approval of agenda for December 9, 2001 meeting —approved

III. Reports

A. Executive Report

1. The Council of Presidents, a group of University leaders, normally meets once a month. The meeting for this month, however, was rescheduled for either January or February.
2. The issue of payroll deduction from paychecks was brought up. Jason Redd (unable to be at the meeting) spoke to University administrators who were looking into a time extension for partial payment to extend the number of times that money is deducted from a paycheck. However, the problem is receiving data from the student's home department in a timely manner. He will follow up with more information at the next meeting, including what is meant by "data from the home department," as mentioned by Stewart Duncan (University Senator).
3. The Joint Advisory Board is a group of students, University administrators, and City of New Brunswick administrators. 5 of the 15 members are undergrads, and next year they will have 1 graduate student. Some of the issues they are addressing are polling places on campus for students and a movie theater in New Brunswick near campus. Some more polling places will go up within campus sometime next year. The movie theater in New Brunswick is a proposed 2nd-run theater, which will be cheaper, but may cut into RCPC programming.
4. The City of New Brunswick passed a resolution that rental units need to be inspected once every 3 years except if the landlord lives in the building. There has been some contentious debate on this issue.
5. A report of New Brunswick traffic was published, which actually proposes a light-rail system of about 10 miles to alleviate traffic problems. The Rutgers buses are starting to get bad in terms of transporting students between and around campuses. David Snyder (Jewish GSA) asked if the increase in traffic could be due to people coming in from

Route 287, and Joanne Tactikos (AGSA) asked if construction could mess up existing traffic. Jeff mentioned that the increase in companies around Piscataway and New Brunswick has warranted this possible system, and that of course traffic problems would occur, but they weren't addressed in this study. He also mentioned that the World Trade Center disaster put a bigger crunch on New Jersey Transit, which has affected traffic throughout the entire state.

6. Jeff had a meeting with Graduate Housing about the shopping vans. The off-campus vans are not being used much (the 2nd ward van), and the question is if the money is worth it. At a cost of \$15,000, the Rutgers pays \$13,000 and the GSA pays \$2,000. The on-campus van can be used by anyone in the dorms, but the problem has been getting enough working time for the drivers. Joanne Tactikos (AGSA) asked if it is possible to underwrite the expenses for the van from the stores that are receiving business rather than from the GSA. Kristen Block (History) asked about the path of the shopping van, which went with Stewart Duncan's (University Senator) question about people who live in neither the 2nd or 6th wards. Jeff mentioned that Graduate Housing thinks it's too dangerous for the van to travel in certain areas, but he also mentioned that if someone is on the bus and not from those wards, the person has to be dropped off.

7. There was no movement on the College of Applied and Professional Studies, and the issue of unionization will be addressed by Gary Bartlett (ISAC) later on.

8. Jeff also met with the president of UMDNJ, who mentioned that \$400 million will be spent to expand research space. The Cancer Institute of New Jersey will get 3 times the space, and the Waksman Institute and Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine will have new buildings. However, they are not planning on building any new housing or any new parking spaces, which will definitely mess up Rutgers students. He also mentioned that there are no sharing of resources with UMDNJ and that there needs to be a checks and balances system with UMDNJ.

B. Committees

1. Social — No chairperson in attendance and no events scheduled.

2. Publications — Anand was in an accident and was unable to do a lot of stuff, but he is still doing updates for the website.

3. TA/GA — Gary Bartlett (ISAC) mentioned that a letter is going out to all members from the AAUP to get more interested people by having those members speak at department meetings. He mentioned that the AAUP doesn't have the e-mail addresses of all the members, but that a cover letter and separate information would go out sometime next year. Joanne Tactikos (AGSA) asked if GSA members can speak to individual departments about the AAUP. Jeff mentioned that a newsletter and survey went out to all TAs and GAs in October, and 28 out of 1,700 surveys were returned. Maybe a one-on-one approach might work. Ionas Rus (ESGSA) mentioned that writing an editorial piece in the Daily Targum would draw attention to the AAUP. However, a

one-page bulleted list may work best since people do not want to read too much information. Also, "Union" may not be the proper word to use since there could be some stigma from foreign students. Carrie Preston (GESA) asked about having presentations on the AAUP at TA training sessions, and Stewart Duncan (University Senator) asked about having 1 huge TA training session on the AAUP. Jeff mentioned that Dean Bender would not allow it.

4. ISAC — Gary mentioned that they had the last Pizza Hour and that 1 or 2 may be scheduled during Winter Break.

5. Student Affairs — No chairperson in attendance and no events scheduled.

C. Treasurer/EAC

No reps for the Food Science GSA, Society for Biomaterials, or the Joint Biosciences GSO were present at the meeting, so their requests were not voted on. Also, \$1,000 was taken out of the Publications budget, which left the GSA with a \$620 surplus for the semester. Since the Spring 2002 check has not arrived yet, the numbers may go up. Joanne Tactikos (AGSA) asked about the surplus, and Jeff mentioned that the surplus doesn't always happen. The budget was passed.

D. University Reps

1. RSCGB — There was no meeting.

2. DSCGB — No one present at the meeting.

3. Representative to the Board of Trustees (Jason Redd) — The main issues that need to be addressed are the payroll issue previously mentioned and getting RUNet 2000 in all the dorms. He is trying to get a timetable from the University on both these issues.

4. University Senate — Stewart Duncan mentioned that the same-sex marriage resolution was approved, with slightly different wording than the resolution passed by the GSA. A resolution will also be sent to the President to pay for health insurance for fellows. David Snyder mentioned that the College of Applied and Professional Studies was brought up in the Budget/Finance Committee, because they want to see that it will make money for the University. The faculty are concerned that they won't be reimbursed for their services, but the budget appears to account for this. Also, the tuition increase is explained with the addition of the new College. Stewart also mentioned that the Newark and Camden campuses gave their reports, and that everything can be found the University Senate's website (<http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~rusenate>).

5. Executive Council — Carrie Preston mentioned that the Drop/Add resolution was passed to extend Drop/Add times. There was discussion on the increase of interdisciplinary certificates and if they should be offered to non-matriculating students. Companies may send employees to these classes which prevents enrolled students from

taking these classes. Also, students with international fellowships can get certificates. Joanne Tactikos (AGSA) asked about who gets priority - full-time vs. non-matriculated students - and Carrie mentioned that this goes by each individual department. Joe Civale (German) asked about how an interdisciplinary certificate is indicated, and Carrie mentioned that this is mentioned on a student's diploma. There has been an increase in certificates in Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, Math, and computer programming. She mentioned that she will be doing a presentation on health care for fellows, with the eventual goal to have a HMO for external fellows. Stewart Duncan (University Senator) asked as a separate HMO for postdocs. David Snyder (Jewish GSA) mentioned that there is a pamphlet on what is offered by the University. Carrie mentioned that she needs to know what is happening here and at other schools and also what the GSA thinks students need. Joanne Tactikos (AGSA) mentioned that a subcommittee should be made for this purpose. She also mentioned that 1 person from an outside institution needs to be on a student's Qualifying Examination committee.

6. Academic Computing — No one at the meeting.

7. Parking — They didn't meet, and they will not meet again until January.

8. Bike Task Force — Jeff mentioned that this group didn't meet, but the Student Task Force did meet. They want to set up a 5-campus bike tour to go along the path of the proposed bike lanes. However, the main task force wants to push the time further back and deal with the planning themselves. Scott Mittman (ESGSA) mentioned that the Raritan Roadrunners Club should be contacted about getting the roads closed down. Jeff also mentioned that the Parking Demand Specialist Elaine Cooper is in charge of reducing single occupancy vehicles. No decisions have been made yet, but she wants to get more involved. The University is not being too helpful for the bike situation, except for the bike lids.

9. Health Services — No one was at the meeting. The advisor for this committee is Dr. Richard Piche, and he would be the person to speak to for the presentation on health care for fellows.

E. Administrative Assistant — No one was present, but the hours will be curtailed from December 10 to January 21. Checks, however, can still be picked up. Brian Keane will not be around from December 20 to January 21.

IV. New Business

A. Proposals from floor —

Carrie Preston (GESA) mentioned that their group is starting a graduate student magazine and that they are looking for submissions from anyone, such as poems, stories, and non-fiction pieces. Stewart Duncan (University Senator) asked about the overenrollment committee. Jeff mentioned that this meeting keeps getting pushed back, and that the

Newark and Camden campuses are increasing enrollment, while there is not as much in the New Brunswick campus.

V. Question Time — none

VI. Adjournment