

AAUP Bargaining Unit Member Meeting – Rider University Chapter

Minutes, September 1, 2016

President Art Taylor called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm at the Bart Luedeke Theater.

Introduction of Executive Committee members: Art Taylor, Dave Dewberry, Brian Spiegelberg, Kathy Price, Kathleen Pierce, Jason Chiu, Elizabeth Scheiber, CGO Jeff Halpern, and Terri Rue.

President's Report:

- A brief introduction of the new president, Art Taylor
- Explained the “marketization of education” – how higher education is being modeled more and more on business models
- PowerPoint introduced Rider's Financial Status
 - Multiple fund categories:: unrestricted, temporarily restricted, permanently restricted
 - Displayed the spreadsheet Rider's administration provided with projections from 2016 – 2019
 - For 2016, the administration's projected deficit is \$4,752,000.
 - Scholarship discounting has increased by 11.6% (2016)
 - Conferences and revenue from such have decreased by 46%
 - Administration has combined salaries and fringe benefits and are projecting a 3% increase
 - Non-officer compensation is increasing (non-faculty)
 - Bonds cost the university \$6M annually
 - Fundraising efforts are producing not much more than they are costing
 - Recent poor publicity (closing departments and lay-offs last October)

Chief Grievance Officer's Report:

- Historically, Rider has predicted deficits. In 2015 we had an audited deficit of \$700,000. The administration had predicted earlier that the deficit would be \$7M. Though no deficit is good, there is a marked- difference between the predicted and the actual amount
- Financial “blame” is often placed on predecessors, but there is always a financial team in place that is equally responsible
- Discounting rates are higher than tuition increases
- The administration places data in categories that are not typical – making it difficult to know what is being reported
- There are some discrepancies in what has been historically spent and what is predicted (i.e., student wages, maintenance costs)
- Things are not “rosy.” We do face a deficit.

- After 2017, the financial picture should improve: bond debts will go down dramatically and there will be numerous early retirements
- Monmouth University's faculty is composed of 20% full-time professor and Rider's is composed of 40% full-time professors, creating a higher cost for faculty salaries

Questions/Comments from the BUMs

- Demographics of fewer entering freshmen has been known publicly for at least 13 years – the administration should have been planning for this drop in enrollment
 - What is the difference between this year and last in enrollment?
 - It appears flat
- A motion from the Executive Committee to open negotiations with the administration was made; discussion ensued; the motion was voted on by a show of hands, and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy K. Price

Recording Secretary