

UMDNJ UPDATE

UMDNJ Advisory Committee Meeting

Last night in Newark, the UMDNJ Advisory Committee held a public hearing regarding the future of UMDNJ. The hearings were from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. The only previous hearing held by this Committee was held with very little notice and was also held in Newark.

The hearing was well attended by UMDNJ employees, students, politicians and the public. Approximately 50 speakers were able to voice their concerns. CWA Local 1031 was represented by CWA Newark Branch President Danny Ortiz and negotiating team member Michelle Galbreath Galbreath spoke passionately about being born and raised in Newark and working for UMDNJ. She argued for the retention of UH and the University in Newark. Kathleen Hernandez, EVP, asked that the Committee answer a series of questions in their final report. These questions included: Will there be public hearings in New Brunswick and Piscataway? What will happen to the SOM, the UBHC, the grant funded Child Study FXB Program and UMDNJ employees in the Prisons? If some UMDNJ employees become Rutgers employees, will they retain their years of service and vacation time? Will they become new employees? Will the Committee support proposed legislation to protect these employees? And how much will this reorganization cost?

Other speakers pointed out that the interim report focuses on UMDNJ's past financial problems but not its accomplishments. Details of the accomplishments of the NJMS and Dental School were provided. The Committee was reminded of the Newark agreement and the families who sacrificed when UH was built. The service to the Community and the benefits of a UMDNJ education were offered. Members of the public who demonstrated in Newark this past week promised more demonstrations if UH was shut down. Politicians promised they would take action to protect UH and to retain a Medical School in Newark.

While some speakers were open to a merger, others were against it. A speaker from Rutgers argued that any changes to UMDNJ should not be a benefit to one institution and a detriment to another. Changes must benefit all.

We do not know if there will be any more hearings. The Committee stated their final report will be issued at the end of this year. For those unable to attend the hearing, you can express your thoughts about the future of the University, via e-mail, to publiccomment@gov.state.nj.us.

Membership Meetings

A membership meeting was recently held in Newark. We were unable to secure a room in Stratford before our next negotiations session of **October 28th**. We are attempting to schedule a meeting in Stratford early in November.

New Brunswick

October 17, 2011

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

CAB 3403

Piscataway

October 20, 2011

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

RWJMS Research Tower

Lunch will be provided