

University Senate Meeting Minutes

February 25th, 2019

In Attendance:

Abrams, Alleyne, Alo, Antenos, Bal, Bellum, Berisha, Berger, Billings, Brater, Curnutt, Dinour, Field, Fleming, Robert Friedman, Gaynor, Gioia-Kay, Gurskis, Hagiwara, Herness, Hood, Kelly, Kerrihard, Korotikin, Kurze, LaFountain, Tomson for Lucas, McDermid, Misra, Murray, Nurse, Panorkou, Pennington, Peterka-Benton, Rufus

1. Call to order at 2:43pm

2. Roll Call

3. Minutes

Sullivan: Move to approve December 2018 and January 2019 minutes.

Dinour: Second

Vote to pass- approved

4. Report from the Administration

a. **Murray:** Welcome to the new senators.

b. **Pennington:** On behalf of Provost Gingerich I'll ask my colleagues to speak.

c. **Fleming:** Quick update on new NETID system to replace a lot of obsolete software with a more stable platform. It will go live for students first in March. It will allow us to provide new IDs quicker and user friendly platform. We are starting to plan the rollout for employees in late spring. It will have additional security measures.

d. **Cote-Bonnano:** Strategic Plan is in progress and in the phase where we are pulling things together to become a document for review. The timeline is on the website; a draft document will be put out to committee of university effectiveness and then to the community at large. There will be Canvas site for feedback. The goal is to have the BOT vote on it in late spring so it goes into effect on July 1st, 2019.

e. **Hood:** Update on 120 credits. New Jersey legislature has required all undergraduate degrees to be 120 credits. There are about 50 programs that are above and will need to be revised.

Cote-Bonnano: Another exception will be if an accreditation requirement will need more than 120 credits but will need a justification.

Wolfson: Are the only waivers MSU will ask for just 5-year programs or others?

Cote-Bonnano: No, an exemption might be made based on a justification or accreditation. A waiver would be for programs being revised.

Wolfson: What will the process be to request an exemption on campus?

Cote-Bonnano: We are already working with programs over 120 and will require as much justification as possible.

5. Council Reports

a. Administrative Affairs

Bellum: Second reading on the second common hour. Safety committee notes attached. Next meeting will have the Land Recognition recommendation.

Lal: Social Responsibility committee created a presentation to share. The committee consists of Pankaj Lal, Tony Pemberton, Erik Jacobson, Devon Johnson, and Vanessa Allynne. We want to hear from more students, so far only three- Kristina Luhr edited the video. Single use plastic ban has been done in California and Hawaii at the state level and New York City goes in effect on January 1st.

Misra: What is the next step?

Lal: We need to contact the vendors and see what the financial cost will be. Looking at a lot of options to find what is best for our university.

McDermid: What we might ask Senators to do in the next month to do? Speak at their department meetings?

Lal: Our documents are on the Canvas site if you want to share. We want to focus on student feelings.

Sullivan: Thank you for the presentation. What can be done right now in some buildings on campus is clearer signs on what is garbage and what is recycling?

Jacobson: The structure of the task force began as social responsible investing and now its broader as student concerns come up across the university.

Specchio: To address the fact that the fruit is wrapped in plastic, it is actually a sanitation issue. There could be a better way to do it, but that is why the fruit is packaged.

Gaynor: Thank you. This is a really important issue. What you may need is additional support is to survey attitudes from students, staff, and faculty.

Lal: There we will lean on the Senate for that.

Student: Working with Dr. Lal on surveys. We look to NJIT because they have a branch of custodial staff that sorts trash to recover about 16% to recycle.

Pennington: Administration is in favor of efforts and will look into the straw issue that was previously brought up. Would suggest the Senate be in touch with Student Government.

b. Academic Affairs

McDermid: We have to fill the third seat on UUC. This is the last time for nominations or we can have a vote for it today.

Murray: Move to seat Kirk McDermid on the UUC

Gaynor: Second

Vote in favor- approved.

Still working on the curriculum procedures recommendation document. It is on Canvas. Collecting info for University-wide learning goals and hopefully completed by March. Gen Ed reform discussions until Friday for response to Provost Office documents.

c. Student Affairs

Misra: Some students on financial aid who pay in installments have a disadvantage in priority registration as they show a financial hold. If final payment on plan is due after registration, couldn't register.

Pennington: I'll look into that.

6. Election Committee

Field: At-large opened on Tuesday open until next Friday. March 25th open constituency elections.

7. Report from NAL

Reported in the Star Ledger today. State-wide negotiations begin next Friday. Last monthly meeting - members asked president about the paid leave initiative.

8. Constitution Committee

Murray: First reading to propose specific language that stipulates the NAL officer is both a Senator and 1904 Officer. Procedure will be for the 1904 Officers to nominate someone and the Senate will accept.

Curnutt: NAL rep is on the executive board of the senate and the union. We need a good way to ensure both groups count a vote.

9. Committee of the Whole

a. Recommendation on Accommodation of Student Religious Observance- Second read.

Murray: Addendums on the back of the initial recommendation in packet.

Misra: Object to the paragraph as it brings us back to where it started.

Murray: I move to table this and have the Executive Board for more work.

Gaynor: Second.

b. Recommendation on Common Periods- Second read.

Murray: No edits from last month. Any discussion?

Sullivan: Where are we going to find the 90 minutes?

Murray: That's not part of the recommendation. The administration will have to work with us later if they decide it's worth investigating.

c. Recommendation on final exam schedule- Second read.

Murray: Serious changes on this one as marked in the packet.

Field: In the first paragraph, there are italicized language to give us some options for discussion. The initial recommendation just suggested earlier notification of final exam and now we have added a second option to keep a standard schedule throughout the 15 week semester.

Murray: After last week it looked like we had support for both ideas. As a group do we want to back one idea for a specific recommendation?

Murray: I like the standard schedule, but the only remaining issue is the need for 2 hour time slot.

Misra: I was not here during this discussion last week, but if the midterm doesn't get the 2 hours then the faculty member is forced to make it work- it's not a big issue.

Kurze: To second that, the online learning platform on Canvas will allow for students to have more time if they need.

Berisha: I brought this to discussion in Economics department. If one section meets once a week and the second session meets twice a week, is the last day the exam?

Murray: It's up to the instructor.

Bal: Mixed reaction from the math department. The final is often cumulative rather than the midterm. Some students only take courses within two days, so all their finals might be all in one day.

Kurze: From a pedagogical reason you can build a final incrementally and look at how we evaluate knowledge.

McDermid: Again, it is up to the instructor. If we change the schedule we may be forcing some faculty to change their methods. If we do that we will need to offer support for them to figure out how to run their final.

Specchio: Have we looked at why we need to make this recommendation? Is it lack of classes or lack of planning?

Murray: It's both of those and other reasons. It is an unwieldy system with a lot of problems. It's not working now, so we came up with these two ideas.

Antenos: Does the union have a position on this?

Wolfson: No, it's an academic issue.

LaFountain: Does the adjunct union?

Korotkin: Not yet. Since adjuncts teach at more than one university it causes several problems.

Rufus: Problems with the students too and their work hours.

Abrams: What about courses that are actually shortened by the final schedule?

LaFountain: What is the criticism of the early scheduling?

McDermid: It won't solve the problem. There are still issues with students and adjuncts.

Gioia- Kay: How badly is the current system working? I have only had 2 conflicts in 29 years.

Rufus: It is bad. As an advisor the students have a lot of conflicts- exams at the same time, work schedules, etc.

Sumner: The issue with having the final schedule settled by first week of class is that the schedule isn't finalized until weeks into the semester. It makes it very difficult to give finals schedule early.

Nurse: If it was just student/adjunct issues, it'd be bad enough, but the room issue is also a huge issue

Murray: If someone is vehemently opposed the uniform schedule, can we see a raise of hands to see within the Senate how people feel?

Uniform schedule in favor? Majority

Opposed? One.

Specchio: Can we get someone from the Registrar's Office to talk to us next month?

10. Report of the Senate Vice President

Murray: Dr. Pennington addressed everything on my report.

11. New Business

Murray: In our lab, multiple people use computers and people need to sign in everytime; how closely is the university logging who logs in, how often, and what they're doing? University issued laptop.

Fleming: We don't monitor faculty and staff workstation. They are university property so we collect them at the end of the lease or if person leaves. There might be a reason to look at it, but in general we do not. As for student labs, we've asked to what degree the workstations are used.

Korotkin: OIT has access to what I put on Canvas without my knowledge.

Fleming: Technically yes. It would be possible to look at course sites. It would be an academic choice. I'm not aware that that is happening, but it is possible.

Wolfson: A difference between ability and ongoing monitoring. Every single device on campus keeps a log with ip addresses, so if the university needed to know information, they could access it. Even if using a secondary email you are still using the university network.

12. Voices from the Community

Grover Furr: Professor in the English Department, read the statement that is available on Canvas. Why I haven't been asked to be Grand Marshal at graduation?

Wolfson: Not as my capacity as union rep, but as faculty member, it seems the Grand Marshal is a faculty accolade and should be chosen by the faculty and not the administration. This is not something that the faculty should give up their rights to choose. Although Grover has asked for an explanation, I would rather have a discussion with admin as to what the policy is and how that person is chosen going forward.

Misra, Specchio, Abrams: Agree

Murray: Is this something Senate is interested in investigating? How many? Majority vote. We will assign to the Academic Affairs Council.

Sumner: Graduation is an enormous event with a lot of people involved. A thing to ask is how many people attend graduation? How many faculty actually attend?

Wolfson: That is a different issue.

Sumner: Graduation is not an academic endeavor and there is a large amount of work that goes into graduation. People should join in on the planning and participation.

13. Adjourn

Gaynor: Move to adjourn

Gioia-Kay: Second

Adjourned at 4:24pm