

University Senate Meeting
Wednesday, May 13th, 2020

1. Approval of Minutes

Trubatch: Move to approve minutes.

Approved by unanimous consent.

2. Roll Call

In attendance: Abrams, Acquah, Alleyne, Alvares, Bal, Bellum, Berger, Berisha, Billings, Brennan, Carnevale, Carr, Collins, Coutras, Curnutt, Dinour, Emery, Field, Fitzpatrick, Fleming, Friedman, Gaynor, Gingerich, Sharps for Gurskis, Hagiwara, Herness, Hunt, Jacobson, Judge, Wallace for Kay, Kelly, King, Wilson for Kingstone, Korotkin, Kurze, LaFountain, Lemons, Lucas, Mamonov, McCarthy, McDermid, McKinley, Misra, Murray, Panorkou, Peterka-Benton, Spitz, Sullivan, Temoney, Trubatch, Vernon, Wolfson.

3. Report from the Administration

Gingerich: President Cole is on a remote call with the White House with other select University Presidents so she is unable to attend the Senate meeting today. It has been a productive year for the University Senate and would like to thank the Senate.

Gingerich: Announcement of the Public Health Taskforce, the two co-chairs are Dean Billings and Dean Smolowitz; and the taskforce is composed of public health specialists. They will create MSU specific protocols to protect the health of students and employees.

McDermid: Will they put out a more detailed plan all at once later in the summer?

Gingerich: That is a good question and since they have not been charged yet we cannot answer that question.

Gingerich: The planning process goes on all at once, we have three plans in place with Plan B being the most complex. There are a lot of questions to answer, how do we handle scheduling, lab classes, etc. Each Dean has a working group to discuss these questions. What type of hybridized system will we use? We hope we will not be fully online in the fall.

Jacobson: Have you talked about how students or staff that are immunocompromised will be addressed?

Gingerich: Nobody is ready to answer that yet, but Dean Billings will have that question on their agenda.

Alvares: I want to give my students the option to not show up in person for various reasons if we go with option A.

Gingerich: I hope you share that model with the Dean and my office to see how you design that to work. I can't imagine how we can offer that option for 6,000 courses.

Sumner: The Remote Taskforce is researching these possibilities, including how technical needs to broadcast classes to those not in attendance; auditing spaces; and assessing needs.

Silvera: What will the role be of this taskforce?

Gingerich: Since the committee has not yet been charged there are a lot of questions still out there, including scheduling meetings, those will be resolved once you have your charge.

Trubatch: Is there a tuition meeting scheduled?

Gingerich: Tuition hearing scheduled in either June or July meeting, I believe it is the June meeting since we need to announce our expectations in July.

Trubatch: There was a freeze on program proposals and alterations, until when?

Gingerich: It is an essential freeze, Provost Cote-Bonano can respond to that.

Cote-Bonano: If anyone submitted by May 4th it will be processed and moved forward. As of July we hope to start a soft launch with people who are willing to be volunteers and try the system out. Prior to that there will be training sessions for the new software. We hope by September 1st we can launch it to the entire community.

McDermid: Are we talking about course alterations or programs?

Cote-Bonano: Right now we are dealing with courses and then we will move onto programs.

Sullivan: Last semester many of us had issues where we put grades in and they disappear, this is happening again this semester; I input them half a dozen times and they will not stay in the system.

Cote-Bonano: I have made a note of this, has Leslie Sutton-Smith or Cardrienne been notified?

Gingerich: Anyone else who has experienced this please contact Leslie and Cardrienne.

Misra: Can students change their mind now about the pass/fail option?

Gingerich: We have had several students question this, there is a team of folks looking into each individual student to allow changes on a case by case basis. The Administration will only consider it in special circumstances; Dr. Hood is handling the majority of the exceptions.

McDermid: It would be a good idea for faculty to save grade information in case there is an exception made or grade grievances.

Davis: We need to have compassion for our students, this is a stressful time for young and new students. The message I've heard throughout the semester is that we need to be accommodating to students, and I think we should accommodate them.

Trubatch: The Academic Affairs Committee did send a recommendation to the Administration and they came up with an alternative plan with a rationale which I will post on the Senate page.

Axelrod: A student of mine who attends another university said they did not give them a choice and made all courses pass/fail; how do we compare to other universities?

Gingerich: We discussed this but did not consider it, especially for programs that require grades for accreditation.

Jacobson: Is there any sense of understanding the percent of students who chose pass/fail to understand the level of their anxieties?

Gingerich: We will come back in the fall with a report of that data for the Senate meeting in September.

Sumner: More than 6,000 students for over 14,000 course sections elected the pass/fail option.

Laguardia: I would like the Administration to consider students who want to apply for graduate school to reconsider the pass/fail option.

Herness: There have been conversations on this across the nation and admissions committees to graduate programs will remember that grades from spring 2020 semesters were unusual.

Trubatch: The school of conservation will no longer be associated with MSU, the land will be returned back to the state.

Gingerich: The land was always owned by the state of New Jersey; we have been custodians of that program but get no funding. The maintenance and deficit for the conservation is in the millions. If the state does not help us in any way we will have to break ties.

Keenan: This is a huge resource and will devastate CSAM. What will happen with the students who are working out there and their projects?

Billings: The State stopped funding the \$1million since 2012 and MSU has been making that up. This was not an easy decision, and we are trying to get permits to continue research.

Wolfson: The School of Conservation got a direct appropriation from the State each year, was that \$1 million dollar taken back by the State in 2011?

Gingerich: I would have to further research what happened in 2011; I do know that the State stopped providing any aid of any kind.

Brennan: It is technically possible that a benefactor could rescue the School of Conservation but highly unlikely that will happen. The University has not received any state support for it since FY2010, despite efforts to seek those funds. Due to the financial fallout from the coronavirus crisis, which you heard the president talk about last week, the institution can no longer cover the School's \$1.5 million deficit. As Dean Billings said, this decision was made with great regret.

Gingerich: We are headed towards a \$20 million shortfall as a University. Masters in Higher Education; undergraduate degree in Applied Mathematic and Statistics; and the new Bachelor's in Hospitality and Tourism have all been passed by the State.

4. Council Reports

a. Academic Affairs

McDermid: The BRTF (Blue Ribbon Task Force on Gen Ed) have been meeting online and working on a report. Emily Isaacs will discuss online teaching best practices.

Isaacs: In the office of faculty advancement we are using a peer to peer model. We are looking to put together a committee on best practices for online teaching to create a document for all to reference. I'm looking for volunteers to join me in this process, give names to Kirk.

Jacobson: Can we get an update of the OER draft progress?

Hunt: All of the universities need to submit a plan to the Secretary of Higher Education to reduce costs to students by using open textbooks and make those costs next to nothing. We sent out a survey and many faculty answered it to see where we are with their experiences using open resources. The Provost and President will review the draft and then send it to the Secretary of Higher Education.

Trubatch: The draft report is a google doc on Senate Canvas and open to anyone with a Montclair email to comment on.

Lieberman: Graduate Council Report slideshow which is available on the Senate Canvas page.

b. Administrative Affairs

Bellum: No report.

c. Student Affairs

Misra: No report.

5. NAL Report

Curnutt: Professional Staff four day a week summer schedule was just announced, we sent out a bulletin to our members. The local is concerned about language President Cole used in her announcement. As a reminder furloughs have to be negotiated.

6. Elections Committee Report

Field: In the organizational meeting we will elect the executive board, their statements were sent out earlier in the week but are also available on the Canvas page.

7. Actions

a. Recommendation on Donated Leave - Second Reading and Vote

Trubatch: I move to approve.

Murray: Second.

Sumner: Has this been vetted through HR Benefits?

Trubatch: All the VPs are in the Senate for this reason, this is the second reading and was discussed last meeting.

Approved by unanimous consent.

- b. Resolution of Appreciation for members of the Senate ending their service on the Senate

Trubatch: Move to approve.

Murray: Second

Approved by unanimous consent.

8. Report of the Senate President

Trubatch: The Executive Board discussed a number of issues with the President and Provost last week, including financial concerns; the University will not change its fiscal year, however the State will have a fiscal year starting October 1st. The University is making a budget for this fiscal year, each Dean has been asked for a careful consideration of their budgets and submit one that is lower than this year.

Trubatch: *Coronversations* are now open for enrollment on Canvas.

Trubatch: This is my last meeting as President. I want to first thank all the members of the Senate, and thank the Executive Board you have taken a lot of initiative and leadership. Going forward I will still be a member of the Senate as elected under the CSAM seat.

9. New Business

Temoney: Has there been any announcements on graduation?

Gingerich: There are plans underway and being organized across many units. We will find ways to honor the graduates and celebrate. It is not yet formalized.

10. Voices from the Community

11. Adjournment

Trubatch: Move to adjourn.

Murray: Second.

Laura Field presides over Organizational Meeting for AY 2020-2021

1. Call to Order

Laura Field Presiding Seating of New Senators

Field: Welcome new members. Previously seated McCarthy, and adding Collins, Trubatch, Alvares, Jacobsen, Sullivan, Berisha, Mamonov, Axelrod, Fackina, Rezco. Prof Staff seat still open, fall election scheduled.

2. Executive Board Elections

Kirk McDermid unanimously acclaimed as Recording Secretary (interim).

Field: votes will happen only for contested positions

- a. Presidential election: Jacobson previously nominated, Field calling for more nominations (three times). No additional nominations; Jacobsen elected by acclamation.
 - b. Vice Presidential election: LaFountain nominated previously; no further nominations from the floor. LaFountain elected by acclamation.
 - c. Recording Secretary: Spitz previously nominated; no further nominations from the floor. Spitz acclaimed as recording secretary.
 - d. Student Affairs Council Chair: Lemons previously nominated; no further nominations. Lemons acclaimed.
 - e. Academic Affairs Council Chair: Kurze nominated previously; no further nominations. Kurze acclaimed.
 - f. Admin Affairs Council Chair: Bellum nominated previously; no further nominations. Bellum acclaimed.
 - g. NAL representative: Curnutt received nomination, sent to Elections Cmte
Wolfson: clarifies Union advances the candidate, no noms from the floor. A confirmation vote.
Curnutt acclaimed as NAL rep.
 - h. Corresponding Secretary: Field previously nominated; no further nominations from the floor. Field acclaimed.
3. Adjournment
Murray: Move to adjourn.
Trubatch: Second.
Adjourned at 4:57pm.