

University Senate Meeting
Wednesday, October 28th, 2020

1. Call to Order at 1:30pm
2. Roll Call
In attendance: Axelrod, Bal, Bellum, Berger, Berisha, Billings, Brater, Carr, Collins, Coutras, Curnutt, Dinosaur, Emery, Fackina, Field, Fleming, Gingerich, Sharps for Gurskis, Hollister, Hood, Hresko, Hunt, Jacobson, Judge, Kelly, Korotkin, Kurze, LaFountain, Lemons, Lin-Cook, Lucas, Mamonov, McCarthy, McDermid, Misra, Murray, Panorkou, Pennington, Peterka-Benton, Spitz, Sullivan, Temoney, Trubatch, Vernon, Wallace, Wolfson.
3. Approval of Minutes from September 16th, 2020
Murray: Move
Spitz: Second
Approved by unanimous consent.
4. Report from the Student Government President (Ernst Lozin)
No report.
5. Report from the Administration
 - a. **Gingerich:** Accepting nominations for phase 2 of the Blue Ribbon Task Force, deadline of October 30th. The report from phase 1 is out, and we encourage all to read and make comments.
McCaffrey: We are really hoping for faculty responses to the first report, all meetings will remain open to the campus community going forward.
 - b. **Gingerich:** Survey schedule, Candy Flemming will have to hire a new person to manage surveys.
 - c. **Gingerich:** Sunday's Graduate Open House broke registration and attendance records.
 - d. **Gingerich:** Welcome to Wendy Lin-Cook, the new VP of Enrollment Management.
 - e. **Trubatch:** What's the timeline for the Montclair Core after the comment period? When is the new committee going to aim to finish?
Hood: The goal is to have an implementable core ready for fall 2021, but we are about 3 months behind in our process.
Kurze: How much will the Presidential search be focused on the Montclair Core?
Gingerich: I haven't ever heard of a general education project being derailed by a President, if they get derailed it is usually from Faculty who have been left out. I don't imagine the new president

6. Voices of the Community

a. Report from the African American Caucus

Michael Allen: Working with the Latinx Caucus for the first time. Addressing issues of mental health with students. Meeting this Friday to put together a forum on student success. Looking to increase visibility across campus.

b. Disabilities Caucus

Alicia Broderick: The Disabilities Caucus was formed just this semester to address institutional ableism, inaccessibility and disability pride. The first membership meeting will be November 13th, anyone is able to attend. Working to get live transcription on Zoom for spring 2021.

c. Latinx/a/o Caucus

Johnny Lorenz: We have approximately 100 members, with monthly meetings every third Thursday at 1:00pm. Serves as a form of discussion, promotes advancement opportunities and inclusive environments, and hosts guest speakers.

d. Montclair State Votes Coalition

LaFountain: Continued to register new voters through the deadline of November 12th. There are drop in sessions to instruct on how to vote by mail for classes, organizations and a video presentation to share. In the next week there will be a lot of information on polling places, voting day issues and other questions.

e. Open Floor

Wallace: Just wanted to note that I wrote a letter about adjunct concerns and Covid-19, the BOT did not acknowledge receipt of it or respond to it.

7. Negotiations Agent Liaison (NAL) Report

Curnutt: The 1904 are troubled that they could not participate on the presidential search committee and feel that the BOT and upper administration do not see labor as an important part of the university.

8. Council Reports

a. Academic Affairs

Kurze: Academic Affairs report is on the Senate Canvas page.

i. Blue Ribbon Task Force

McDermid: The learning curve for the Core is steep, right now we need to look at the proposal in detail and question that it is the best for our students; there is a small subcommittee within the Academic Affairs Council to work on this.

ii. Academic Information Technology Coordinator

McCarthy: Open resource initiative and obsolete format policies are ongoing.

iii. Modes of Instruction

Kurze: The modes for spring 2021 are goals and not policies. There still needs to be best practices and communication within departments and colleges.

b. Administrative Affairs

Bellum: The full report is available on the Senate Canvas page.

i. Socially Responsible Business Policies and Practices Committee

Bellum: We distributed a survey campus wide and would like to have more responses from students.

ii. Information Technology Liaison

LaFountain: We continue to talk about Navigate, security training, phishing issues, use of Zoom alongside other remote teaching tools, ongoing tech needs, computer life cycle program, and updates to classrooms for remote teaching. Contact me with any other IT questions or concerns.

c. Student Affairs

Lemons: Report is on the Senate Canvas. We have formed working groups based on issues brought to our attention, including meeting the needs of low income students in the time of Covid-19 and addressing the cost of health insurance for graduate students. We also asked for a graduate student representative, Kencia Mele to assist with any issues related to graduate students.

9. Business

a. Voting on Recommendations

i. Committee/Task Force memberships

Jacobson: Move in favor to approve committee

Trubatch: Second.

Approved by unanimous consent.

ii. Land Acknowledgement Committee

Bellum: Currently renaming and restructuring the purpose of this committee but members have been identified.

Jacobson: Move to approve committee formation

Trubatch: Second.

Approved by unanimous consent.

iii. Council Chair Lemons Temporary Leave of Absence

Lemons: I will be taking a leave of absence starting November 9th, and looking to return around March 2020. The Student Affairs Council will meet to discuss who would be willing to take over as Chairperson.

b. New Business

i. Administrative Evaluation Study Group Proposal

Jacobson: Start to look at best practices through a working group, if you are interested in volunteering let me or Doug Murray know.

10. Report of the Senate President

a. University Restart Health and Safety Committee

Jacobson: I'm one of the co-chairs of the committee and the work is ongoing as another wave of Covid-19 cases hits NJ. Please contact me if you have any questions. Given the conditions, it is important that this committee remains active and responsive to concerns of the campus community. The committee was successful in getting the administration to change the policy about wearing masks in indoor workspaces, even if there is six feet between individuals. The committee was also successful in asking the administration to change the timing of HawkCheck to make it easier to report for those coming to campus early in the morning. Clear and effective communication around policy and developments on campus remains a key concern that many people are sharing with the committee.

b. Land Acknowledgement Committee

Jacobson: The Five Day Indigenous People's Challenge will take place the week of November 16th. Each day will focus on a topic to deepen awareness of indigenous communities, their activities and issues they face.

To Register: <http://eepurl.com/hfHCq5>

c. Foundation Campaign

Jacobson: The MSU Foundation is doing a mask up campaign, if you donate \$25 or more you will get an MSU branded mask. It should be noted that the MSU Foundation is where the university's endowment is managed. This means it should be of interest to those committed to socially just investment or business practices.

d. Video Surveillance

Jacobson: This discussion is ongoing, and it seems that people may not be on the same page. For example, the administration noted that should people feel unsafe in a given area and want more surveillance, they can approach Public Safety. However, others are concerned about the nature of the surveillance (e.g., where and for how long the data is stored). This is both a logistical and philosophical issue, so needs to be further explored.

e. Plagiarism Study Committee

The committee met for the first time and identified several issues to explore. A key concern is equity - which students get reported and how is discipline meted out? In addition, are all instructors treated equally when it comes to reporting and the response of the administration.

f. OFA Fall 2020 Faculty Pulse Survey

It is noted in the survey that 70% of faculty estimated that their summer prep time increased by 40 hours or more. In addition, 57% of faculty anticipate that their weekly time devoted to teaching will increase 25-50%. The President has noted that everybody on campus has responded to the crisis and risen to the challenge. However, two things are concerning to me.

1. This pace of work is not sustainable.
2. Although the President noted that everybody is doing more and working longer and harder, it remains the case that only part of the campus was required to take furloughs. During the summer, the President explained that administrators were working extra hours and thus a furlough was not appropriate. However, it is clear that faculty/instructors and professional staff are also working extra hours. This is an issue of equity that will remain salient.

11. Adjournment

Collins: Move to adjourn.

Murray: Second.

Adjourned at 3:24pm