

1. Call to Order

Jacobson: Call to order at 1:30pm.

2. Roll Call

In attendance: Alvares, Axelrod, Ayala, Bal, Bellum, Berger, Berisha, Billings, Brater, Carr, Collins, Connolly, Coutras, Dinour, Emery, Fackina, Field, Fitzpatrick, Fleming, Friedman, Gaynor, Gingerich, Gurskis, Halaby, Harness, Hood, Hunt, Jacobson, Kelly, Wilson for Kingstone, Korotkin, Kurze, Lin-Cook, Lozin, Lucas, McCarthy, McDermid, McKinley, Misra, Panorkou, Spitz, Sullivan, Wolfson

3. Approval of the December 2020 Minutes

Trubatch: Move to approve by acclamation, if any edits needed members should contact the Recording Secretary.

Approved by acclamation.

4. Report from the Administration

a. President Cole

Cole: Met with the Commissioner, said we will have a peak of cases in mid-January, cases are now beginning to recede. We will continue with our semester as planned. Thank you to all those who have worked to make campus and course safe during Covid-19. We've added new self operating temperature checking machines for high traffic areas. A new testing program with increased frequency; in fall term we did about 400-600 tests a week and we will increase to about 8,000 tests in spring term. Open test day one day a week for any employee. Will continue contact tracing through HawkCheck. Over winter break we conducted new safety training for the clinics in areas such as Audiology, Speech, and School of Nursing. We were hoping to have vaccinations up and running where we were doing testing, but they do not have enough vaccines- it may happen later.

Cole: We are running the spring term about the same as last fall, in terms of how many courses have at least some in person components. The difference on the instructional side is that we've had even more training, and more clarity of modes of teaching for both students and faculty. Last fall there were a lot of changes in course modalities for several reasons, there is fair warning this time as each Department and College developed their programs- so they must do what they say they're going to do. There was no evidence that any spread of Covid-19 from a classroom setting. Students living on campus have been given new, extensive guidance on how to live in the community, including monitored HawkCheck, required flu shot, and must request a waiver to leave campus. Athletes are back on campus now with renewed safety protocols.

Cole: Campus is safe, credit to everyone working hard to keep it that way, credit to our students for being compliant to protocols as well. Whether you are remote or on campus, if you are in a position dealing with our students please reach out to them and stay connected with them.

Wolfson: Happy to hear the financial health is as best as it could be in the moment, however it would be great to acknowledge the several million dollars that AFT members gave in furloughs. Can someone speak to the issues about the new temperature machines, what happens when someone is registered with a fever?

Billings: If someone registers at least 100.4 degrees, it beeps and tells you to go home, but it is not recorded for privacy reasons.

Wolfson: I would suggest downloading the NJ Covid and Novid apps.

McDermid: Any thoughts on how convocation/commencement will run, and will there be vaccine requirements for summer/fall.?

Cole: It should be up on the website, we will say what we are doing about commencement on March 1st. My best guess is that it'll be similar to what we did last July, a number of convocation ceremonies outdoors in June. As soon as the law gives us the possibility to require vaccinations we will seriously consider doing so.

Sullivan: Stockton and Rowan administration has stopped assigning furloughs since they had enough money to get through the year. Is there any discussion on giving money back for furloughs or stopping them?

Cole: There is no discussion of that at MSU.

McKinley: Getting mixed messages on enrollment for fall 21, are we expecting consistent numbers to the past?

Cole: The number of completed applications is up from the past by a lot, it's too soon to tell if that will equate to an increase in fall numbers. It's early in the process to even look at deposits paid.

b. Provost Gingerich

Gingerich: US News and World Report online graduate programs featured 4 of our programs. Education Leadership program is ranked #15 in the country, up 10 spots, #1 in NJ. MS in IT, online MBA also went up. Just yesterday we were invited to join the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). A memo went to students about course modalities and understanding what they mean. Phase 2 of the Blue Ribbon Task Force has begun and a memo was sent to all users today.

Connolly: You've all seen the housekeeping staff around campus, and we know now that the air quality is a bigger deal than surfaces. We modified the

programming on all buildings to allow for as much fresh air as possible. When the weather is warmer almost every building on campus can have 100% air from outside, on a cold day like today buildings are closer to 30%. We've eliminated the nightly shut down which would conserve energy and have prioritized the most fresh air as possible.

Isaacs: we have a lot of upcoming events for training, working a lot with Information Technology as well. We rely on our experienced faculty to help support our new ones or those who are struggling with the technology. A new series called, "This is What Democracy Looks Like?" to have a dynamic lecture of democracy and authoritarianism.

Jacobson: Who can we talk to about why certain questions are on the common app such as questions about religion, parents occupation and others.

Gingerich: You can refer to VP Lin-Cook.

Jacobson: Final grade policy turnaround is longer than it has been in the past, is that a one time decision or something we will keep for future.

Gingerich: That is a one time decision.

Trubatch: Is the best way to reach out to Facilities still Maximo?

Connelly: Yes. maximo.montclair.edu it is very easy to use with lots of drop down menus and a space for comments.

McDermid: Will there be an endorsement by faculty to approve the Blue Ribbon Task Force findings?

Gingerich: Yes, it is not the responsibility of the taskforce, but there has to be an endorsement by faculty.

McDermid: What kind of oversight or changes are happening to the current General Education curriculum?

Gingerich: I am unaware of any crisis in the current state. It is my expectation that Associate Provost Hood would be in contact with the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for any adaptations that need to be made.

5. Voices of the Community

a. Report from the African American Caucus

Temoney: The AAC will have elections in the next month or so and the Executive Board will meet this week to solidify the meetings schedule and identify our priorities for spring semester. Black History Month is being put on by the Office of Social Justice and Diversity and we hope everyone will participate.

b. Land Acknowledgement Committee

Martini: We are ensuring the statement will be ready for the Senate to approve in the next few months. We want to make sure this is not just an empty gesture but actually increases educational opportunities for the campus community to engage with native peoples and histories.

- c. Latina/o/x Caucus
Lorenz: We will be working on an online event in February with the AAC around Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art. We are starting to plan for Latin day in March.

- 6. Negotiations Agent Liaison (NAL) Report
Wolfson: Reiterating what Cole said about our students appreciating when we engage with them. The FAST Fund is still up and running to help students with small emergency expenses. There are statewide issues with unemployment that faculty are now facing. Some members are having issues with health insurance, the out of network and deductible has changed and have been charged starting October and then again in January. We are working with the State to get that rectified.

- 7. Standing Committees
 - a. Election Committee
Field: Our Canvas was updated right at the beginning of the Senate meeting, and posted a google doc link in the chat for those of you who are not Senate members. Elections for At-Large and Constituency seats will begin this spring.
 - b. Constitution Committee
Dinour: Proposed addition to the constitution to address absences in At-Large seats.

- 8. Council Reports
 - a. Academic Affairs
Kurze: We are working with the Office of Faculty Advancement to finalize a document of MSU Teaching Principles for Inclusive Teaching.
Temoney: The document will be reviewed, and we are looking for feedback through the Senate Canvas page.
McCarthy: The Library now has an opt in option to add tabs in Canvas for library resources.
 - b. Administrative Affairs
Bellum: No updates on continuing business. New business includes a policy we will vote on later. Inquiry from staff regarding the Registrar's Office schedule.
 - c. Student Affairs
Jacobson: Reminder that Danielle Insalaco-Egan is hosting a Navigate meeting on Friday for Senate members.

- 9. Business
 - a. Voting on Recommendations
 - i. Committee on Development, Review and Maintenance of Policies and Procedures
Bellum: We have 3 members so far and are welcome to more, contact me if you want to join. The full read of the proposal is on the Canvas site.
Spitz: Move to approve the creation of the committee.

Sullivan: Second.

Approved.

b. New Business

i. Emeritus Recommendation First Read

Kurze: The current policy is vague but historically has not had any issues until recently. The recommendation will ask the administration for a more clear policy around recommendations.

10. Report of the Senate President

a. Restart Health and Safety Committee

b. Presidential Search

Jacobson: Things are moving on the committee so there should be some news at the beginning of the semester.

11. Adjournment

Jacobson: Move to adjourn

Spitz: Second

Adjourned at 3:46pm