

## University Senate Meeting Wednesday September 29th, 2021

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1. Call to Order/ University Senate President Welcome

Call to order at 1:33pm.

**Jacobson:** Welcome to our new Senators.

2. Roll Call

In attendance: Alvares, Axelrod, Bellum, Berger, Berisha, Billings, Brennan, Bulkley, Coleman-Carter, Collins, Connolly, Coutras, Curnutt, Curran, Field, Fitzpatrick, Fleming, Gurski, Halaby, Herness, Hollister, Hood, Jacobson, Korotkin, Lafountain, Ashon, Lin-Cook, Mamonov, McCarthy, McKinley, Misra, Mizzy, Panorkou, Phillips, Sangregorio, Schmidt, Soufleris, Spitz, Sullivan, Taha, Temoney, Trubatch, Vernon, Wolfson, Woolston.

3. Approval of the Minutes

**Jacobson:** Move to approve May 2021 Minutes.

**Spitz:** Second.

May 2021 meeting minutes are approved.

4. Report from the SGA President

**Jacobson:** Welcome to the new SGA President, Ashon Lanada.

**Lanada:** We have been working all summer to make sure students are being heard. A few initiatives we started over the summer included meeting with department heads and administrators to create connections. Our main goal is to revive student life on campus safely. We are an all first-generation college and Latinx executive board.

5. Report from the Administration

**Hollister:** Thank you to everyone on the Senate and colleagues across campus to see how far we have come since opening day and before as we return to campus.

a. Response to Land Acknowledgement Resolution

**Hollister:** The president wants to get this done and is moving it forward quickly.

b. Response to 72 hour final grade recommendation

**Hollister:** Responding to the recommendation on the 72 hours grading deadline, there is a balance of needs for faculty and students. At 72 hours we will show grades for those entered, and instead of showing a NR, we will give faculty an additional 48 hours to upload grades. We hope that this will work as a compromise and solution; hoping that faculty will still upload grades as soon as they can.

c. Response to curriculum process document

**Hollister:** Curriculum process document; we have not acted on this right away as it got lost in the transition. Asked Cote-Bonnano to look at the document and put our comments/changes. It will then be run past the Deans, then will share a draft with UGCC, hopefully before the next Senate meeting.

d. Update from the Academic Policy Workgroup

**Hood:** The Senate requested an update on the Academic Policy Workgroup charged by Provost Gingrich last February. The group was led by Nicole Weir to examine academic policies to see if there were unnecessary obstacles and delaying graduation dates. They were then asked to suggest revisions. Review of Workflow procedures to remove paper forms. Provost Hollister will work on getting a written update to the Senate. Kate Temoney is the Senate's representative on the working group.

**Collins:** For the record, a substantial number of policies were fully vetted and discussed at the Senate level before this group was even put together.

e. Update from the Blue Ribbon Task Force

**McCaffrey:** Updated the Canvas page for further updated information and access to upcoming meetings. Also posted minutes from previous meetings for transparency. We are working on a plan for the Core Curriculum that is meaningful to our students. Thinking about how we can structure curriculum to enhance student experience with the Core. Operationalising 14 Core outcomes. Need to develop rubrics so instructors know how courses can count as Core Curriculum; certification and assessment. Will continue to discuss with the Faculty and Administration.

**Alvares:** Is the Core going to be preparatory? To what extent is the Core supposed to be a foundation for later courses?

**McCaffrey:** We don't have a specific policy on that, though we are working on foundation courses as well as having upper level courses part of the Core, to a lesser degree.

f. Response to Resolution on Parental Leave

**Vernon: I will send updates to President Jacobson.**

g. Remote Work Policies

**Vernon:** We are in the process of developing a policy as quickly as possible.

h. Traffic and parking issues on campus

**Chief Paul Cell:** Some context on current traffic issues. On the exterior, projects on route 43/route 3 which is a 10 year project and is right near our campus. We are working hard to ask for notice of closures from the DOT but they are not communicating well. Pop up projects without notice from surrounding towns and cities; which we were not notified of. We have about 4 or 5 officers who are on 12 hour shifts doing best they can on traffic; emergencies take priority over traffic. More officers wouldn't really help, we only have one roadway for the majority of cars to leave campus. Working hard to design new roadways. Another issue is a disproportionate number of classes registered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, with less on Wednesdays and Fridays. We hope by next year we can alter the grid to help with traffic issues.

i. Contract tracing on campus

**Coleman-Carter:** Dr. Patricia Ruiz has been working diligently on Covid-19 safety protocols alongside other experts and scientists.

**Ruiz:** The way contact tracers approach their work, we have professional staff nurses and health care workers will do contract tracing as they can as case workers. Once a case is identified it is assigned to a tracer and they communicate

with the student/employee to find anyone who may have been exposed. All of the tracers have completed a John Hopkins Certificate on contact tracing.

**Collins:** It's concerning to hear that some faculty take a long time to reply to contact tracers.

**Sumner:** Please contact me and I can assist with contact faculty.

**Broderick:** How do you know if students are visiting the rec center or student services if they don't remember, or don't think of it?

**Ruiz:** We have access to data that shows where students login to wi-fi.

**Broderick:** Will that data cease to be accessible after the need for contract tracing?

**Coleman-Carter:** Yes.

**Sullivan:** There are some 1,200 students that got exemptions, how many are testing regularly?

**Ruiz:** All of them. And only about 200 in residence halls.

**Coleman-Carter:** There are protocols in place for those who don't comply, we are taking it very seriously.

## 6. Voices of the Community

Reports from the

### a. African American Caucus

**Hill:** I'm the academic advisor in CHSS and Member at Large for the AAC. Updates on new Executive Board. Our membership is open right now and there is a \$20 membership fee. We have a new instagram page at @msu\_aac so the community is aware of upcoming events and notifications. All four of the caucuses will meet with President Koppell on October 1st. The

**Lafountain:** What does the membership fee go to?

**Hill:** It goes towards initiatives and events. We were also discussing an emergency scholarship fund for students, initiatives for Black History Month. The funds would be distributed back to the community through these.

### b. Asian Pacific Islander Caucus

**Jacobson:** This fall they are working on having conversations with students on mental health to destigmatize mental health care. The general body meeting information is on Engage.

### c. Disability Caucus

**Broderick:** We look forward to the meeting with President Koppell and to continue working with the other caucuses. October is Disability History and Awareness Month in the state of New Jersey. As a caucus we will be sharing relevant information via listservs. Meetings will be held on the second Friday of each month via Zoom from 2:30-4:00pm.

### d. Land Acknowledgement Committee

**Martini:** First meeting on September 9th for this year. We are excited by the engagement of the new President. We are also working with the faculty who are developing a minor in indigenous studies. Native American Heritage Month event in November to discuss the land acknowledgement statement. Our next meeting is on Tuesday next week.

### e. Latina/o/x Caucus

**Lorenz:** Announced new Executive Board. We are currently celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and will share all of the upcoming events.

f. Montclair Votes Coalition

**Lafountain:** We are working on getting more students registered to vote, we had a drive yesterday. We are also working on getting students to work as paid poll workers.

g. Supporting Students from Afghanistan

**Fitzpatrick:** There are some initiatives to help alumni that are still in Afghanistan. Will share a list of organizations people can contribute to.

h. Open Floor

**Jenna Sundel:** As an editor of the Montclarion I'm wondering if the Senate has a statement regarding the Provost message on course modalities.

**Jacobson:** We will make a statement available to you.

7. Negotiations Agent Liaison (NAL) Report

**Curnutt:** 1904 and still working with President Koppell on a reset, we have made a lot of progress on grievances so far. We are monitoring air circulation on campus, if you want to borrow the equipment please contact Rich Wolfson. Stop by our table at Homecoming.

8. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

**Jacobson:** Saundra Collins wants to invite people to speak with her as the Faculty Representative.

**Collins:** Thank you to everyone who supported me for my run as Faculty Representative. Read description of the role of Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees.

**Temoney:** What channels of communication can we start to make the Faculty Representative a voting member of the Board of Trustees?

**Collins:** It would probably be through the Board of Trustees.

**Wolfson:** The composition of the Board of Trustees is dictated by the Governor.

9. Standing Committees

a. Elections Committee

**Field:** Open specialist seat open until Friday. Nominations will open for vacant Senate seats starting on Friday.

10. Council Reports

a. Academic Affairs

**Temoney:** Thank you to Dani Peterka-Benton and Jessica Brandt for their service, whose Senate terms have ended, and welcome to new AAC members, Nicole Panorkou and Maisa Taha. Active business includes an update on the extended drop/add period for this year due to hurricane Ida; Senate representation on the Provost Search Committee (myself); individual contingency plan for remote teaching; UUCG and Graduate Council continuity protocol. Reports from the Office of the Provost Academic Affairs Policy Committee and Office for Faculty Advancement.

b. Administrative Affairs

**Bellum:** Received a response from HR regarding the inquiry on harassment processes and procedures; posted to the Canvas page. Active business includes an

additional inquiry into policies, processes, procedures for contractors and other non-employees who experience harassment or bullying on campus; video surveillance on campus; and environmental stewardship.

c. Student Affairs

**Jacobson:** Temesia is no longer in the Senate due to her promotion. We are looking for a new Student Affairs council Chair, please contact Pascale with any questions or nominations.

11. Business

No voting business.

a. New Business

**Sullivan:** Request from our graduate students working in Overlook. They have to walk from Overlook to lot 60 then take a bus to campus. The walk is not safe. Can we put a pathway from Overlook to campus?

**Jacobson:** We will take that up with public safety and infrastructure.

12. Report of the Senate President

**Jacobson:** Report from the MSU Foundation Board. Thank you to everyone in the Senate for all the work they are doing.

13. Adjournment

**Lafountain:** Move to adjourn.

**Field:** Second.

Adjourned at 3:48pm.