

1. Call to Order/ University Senate President Welcome

Call to order at 1:34pm.

Jacobson: Welcome to three new Senators: Viega, Rodriguez, and Ellis. Welcome back to the Senate to Jessica Brater who is now the new Student Affairs council chair.

2. Roll Call

In attendance: Alvares, Axelrod, Bellum, Berisha, Brater, Brennan, Carr, Coleman-Carter, Collins, Connolly, Coutras, Curnutt, Curran, Field, Fleming, Gurskis, Hollister, Hood, Jacobson, Judge, Korotkin, Lafountain, Landa, Lin-Cook, Mamonov, McCarthy, McDermid, McKinley, Misra, Mizzy, Panorkou, Phillips, Sangregorio, Schmidt, Soufleris, Spitz, Sullivan, Taha, Temoney, Trubatch, Vernon, Wolfson.

3. Approval of the Opening Meeting Minutes

Spitz: Move to approve minutes from November meeting.

Sullivan: Second.

Approved by acclamation.

4. Report from the SGA President

No report.

5. Report from the Administration

Hollister: Vice President Soufleris to discuss Covid response update in light of increased case numbers.

Soufleris: We are watching the current rise nationally, paying attention to the Omicron variant. We will be hosting booster clinics starting Spring Semester, and continue being vigilant. This will be with us for a bit, and we need to keep the numbers reasonable.

Coleman-Carter: The CHAT group has case management updates regularly. We are promoting and encouraging boosters. We also pulled together some recommendations that we will share soon.

Gerber: Are there any plans for room changes and social distancing for Spring?

Soufleris: Right now, we do not have any plans for that, this semester went well.

Lafountain: Are there plans to open the semester at a later date or online?

Soufleris: Not right now, but we will continue to monitor the situation.

Curnutt: Is there a booster requirement for spring?

Soufleris: It won't be required for spring since there is such a variety of when people got their second shot, but it will be for following semesters.

Fleming: Vax check will be updated to allow recording of booster shots starting next week.

Hollister: Changes to the grade policy were emailed out this week. Grades are no longer going to have an NR for not reported until January 3rd, so students don't see an incomplete grade. After that time period, grade changes go through the workflow.

Hollister: An edited version to the Preferred Name Policy is forthcoming which will explain details on how we can list students preferred names on diplomas. We cannot implement it for May graduates but will have a process to change it afterwards. We do not have the authority to change the student's legal name on other official documents.

6. Voices of the Community

Reports from the:

a. African American Caucus

Hill: Membership dues are still open for the Academic Year. We will have an end of year celebration to socialize and highlight some of our staff contributions.

b. Disability Caucus

Jacobson: Excited to work with President Koppell to solve problems. The schedule of meetings have been changed, the next meeting is January 21st, and the second Friday of every month going forward.

c. Land Acknowledgement Committee

Jacobson: Panel discussion and event this month was successful, with over 140 guests online and in person.

d. Latinx/a/o Caucus

Lorenz: Along with reps from other caucuses we met with President Koppell for a constructive conversation on shared goals and challenges at Montclair State. We are excited to hear that our new Provost is part of our community and hopes to increase diversity, inclusion, and equity on our campus.

e. Montclair Votes Coalition

Lafountain: Montclair State has a 71% official voting rate. We are inviting speakers for the spring semester to talk about voting rights and fraudulent elections.

f. Open Floor

7. Negotiations Agent Liaison (NAL) Report

Curnutt: We are winding down a number of outstanding issues, the new administration is working with us in a productive way. We hosted a public student loan debt forgiveness event, a big takeaway is that the new guidelines qualify a lot more people on campus. We will hold a similar event next semester for those who could not attend this one.

8. Standing Committees

a. Elections Committee

No report.

9. Council Reports

a. Academic Affairs

Temoney: Active business includes inquiries on: enrollment management,

doctoral program structures, amorous relationship policy, and transfer equivalencies. Reports on the Academic Affairs Policy Committee, OFA, UUCC, Committee to Review Curriculum Development Processes, and the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The full report is located on the Senate Canvas page.

b. Administrative Affairs

Bellum: Active business includes inquiries on: HR policies and procedures (update from David Vernon coming soon), and several video surveillance. We have recommendations and resolutions to discuss in the business section of the meeting. Full report is available on the Senate Canvas page.

c. Student Affairs

Brater: Our only active business item was the Preferred Names Policy which Provost Hollister closed out earlier in the meeting. Feel free to contact me with any inquiries you have on student affairs.

10. Business

a. Recommendations

i. Recommendation on To-Go Containers

Second Read and vote. Full recommendation available on the Senate Canvas page.

Trubatch: Move to accept reading and move to vote.

Woolston: Second.

Yes: 23, No: 0, Abstain: 0

Recommendation approved.

ii. Recommendation on University-wide Policy Process and Committee

Second Read and vote. Full recommendation available on the Senate Canvas page.

Spitz: Move to accept reading and move to vote.

Brater: Second.

Yes: 23, No: 2, Abstain: 0

Recommendation approved.

iii. Recommendation on University Land Acknowledgement

First Read. Full recommendation available on the Senate Canvas page.

Bellum: Any comments or concerns on this first reading?

Spitz: As you mentioned, I think it is important to have a pronunciation guide.

Brater: We could have a few good Theater or performance students read the statement for the website.

b. Resolutions

i. Video Accessibility for Shared Governance-Related Public Meetings

Full resolution available on the Senate Canvas page.

Yes: 23, No: 2, Abstain: 0.

Resolution approved.

c. New Business

Reconstituted University Safety Committee, we asked the administration to allow a Senate representative to the committee. We are proposing Sue Davis, Professional Staff in Theater and Dance.

Yes: 23, No: 0, Abstain: 0.

Appointment approved.

11. Report of the Senate President

Jacobson: MSU Foundation had the most successful Giving Tuesday with over 150 donors.

Jacobson: The Director of the University Galleries is rethinking about outside spaces for art exhibition. I would like to recommend that dedicated space for indigenous artists be considered.

12. Adjournment

Jacobson: Move to adjourn.

Spitz: Second.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08pm.