

# University Senate

September 3, 2024 | 4 P.M. | Cole Hall, Room 340 & Zoom

- Meeting Minutes: S. Sangregorio

## Senate Membership Attendance

### Voting Members in Attendance:

A. Beringer, A. Broderick, A. Korotkin, C. McKinley, C. Reinisch, C. Rodriguez-Unalt, D. Peterka-Benton, D. Trubatch, E. Jacobson, I. Ren, K. Temoney, L. Carr, L. Gavin, M. Heller, N. Panorkou, P. La Fountain, R. Kunstadter, S. Baglieri, S. Bellum, S. Collins, S. McCarthy, S. Sangregorio, T. Gorman, V. Nauta, W. Sullivan

### Voting Members Missing:

O. Gharehgozli, S. Mamonov, J. Alvares, J. Baldwin LeClair, M. Kamenetskiy

### Meeting Documents:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HoAMhMU4IAviC7bjpob8JywbS7RE0zmd?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HoAMhMU4IAviC7bjpob8JywbS7RE0zmd?usp=drive_link)

## Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to Order

- **Call to Order:** 4:15 PM
- **Shannon Bellum** welcomes the group to the Opening Day Senate meeting.

### 2. Roll Call

- **Sarah Sangregorio** calls the roll of voting Senators.
- **Shannon Bellum:** "As a point of order, we normally also call in the non voting senators, but in the interest of time, I'm going to pass that time. We have a quorum."

### 3. Land Acknowledgement Statement

- **Shannon Bellum** reads the land acknowledgement statement.

### 4. Approval of the Minutes

- [2024-05 Senate Meeting minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jb9aQKNhJpMohYX_TTXJ0o-jMuoSX7ZB4hGvZK3Z5_E/)  
([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jb9aQKNhJpMohYX\\_TTXJ0o-jMuoSX7ZB4hGvZK3Z5\\_E/](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jb9aQKNhJpMohYX_TTXJ0o-jMuoSX7ZB4hGvZK3Z5_E/))
- [2024-05 Organizational Meeting Minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a2tbdZpV1oP-ocluobvROkNjXNVOnOXO-QH2JMATLbk/)  
(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a2tbdZpV1oP-ocluobvROkNjXNVOnOXO-QH2JMATLbk/>)
- **Shannon Bellum** calls for the approval of the May 8, 2024 minutes by unanimous consent.
- The motion is seconded by multiple members.

### 5. Senate Business Items

#### Temporary appointment of Bloomfield College Senators

- [Resolution to add Temporary Seats for Bloomfield College](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dwIYdTSGcc6lf45iLkjiZWJkBlqjrSnH/)  
(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dwIYdTSGcc6lf45iLkjiZWJkBlqjrSnH/>)
- **Shannon Bellum:** “I would like to introduce a resolution to add temporary seats for Bloomfield College to the University Senate. This is in advance of our Constitution committee. This will give them an opportunity to do due process. By our count, the due process would take until early spring to both elect and seat them. This resolution, will seat representatives from Bloomfield College, hopefully by the end of September.”
- **Shannon Bellum** reads the text of the resolution:  
*The University Senate recognizes that its function depends on appropriate and reasonable representation of the Senate’s constituencies. To that end, the Constitution of the University Senate provides that each College (or School with a Dean) has members elected separately by the (i) Full-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty (ii) Professional Staff, and (iii) Instructional/Clinical Specialists [sic] of that College.*

*The merger of Montclair State University with Bloomfield College, and the subsequent reorganization, has added a College (Bloomfield College) not currently provided for in the Constitution. Currently,*

*Bloomfield College comprises both Full-Time Faculty and Professional Staff, but not any NTTPs (including the former titles Instructional/Clinical Specialist).*

*However, a change in the seats of the Senate requires amendment of the Constitution which, as further specified by the Constitution, requires three readings before a vote and adoption. During the pendency of any amendment, Bloomfield College is left without representation in the Senate.*

*Therefore, the University Senate resolves the following.*

- 1. There shall be one, non-voting Seat for Full-Time Faculty with primary appointment in Bloomfield College for Academic Year 2024-2025.*
- 2. There shall be one non-voting Seat for Professional Staff with primary appointment in Bloomfield College for Academic Year 2024-2025.*
- 3. The Elections Committee of the University Senate shall conduct elections to fill the above noted temporary seats in a manner consistent with the Senate Constitution and established practices of the Committee.*
- 4. The Dean of Bloomfield College, or designee, is invited to serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Senate until such time as the Constitution is amended to the same effect.*

### **Discussion**

- **Saundra Collins** asks why the seats are non-voting.
- **David Trubatch** explains that the Senate Constitution requires a constitutional change to add voting members. Adding Bloomfield College as voting members would require ignoring the Constitution. The Senate is a recommending body, not a deciding body. Recommendations based on a close vote would carry much less weight. Therefore, adding individuals from Bloomfield as non-voting members of the Senate and allowing them to speak at Senate meetings accomplishes the goal without altering the Constitution. To change the constitution requires three readings and a vote per the constitution. The proposal is to create non-voting positions, which can be temporary until the September, October, and November meetings allows for three readings and a vote to allow them to become fully voting members. The Constitution is flexible, and the current administration has made dynamic changes. The Senate Constitution should be changed to make it easier to adjust seats as the university organization changes. The

Senate Constitution Committee should add Bloomfield as soon as possible and amend the Constitution to allow for continued growth.

- ***The resolution passes with unanimous consent.***

## 6. Election Committee (Tim Gorman)

- **Tim Gorman** introduces himself in his capacity as corresponding secretary, which also makes him chair of the election committee. As such, Tim is responsible for running elections to fill vacant seats. The Senate has several vacant seats that need to be filled before the next meeting. The current elections committee is currently solely led by Gorman, and if anyone is interested in helping run the elections, they are welcome to join. There are two at-large seats available, open to all faculty, librarians, and specialists, with terms ending in 2027. There are also two professional staff seats, one for CHSS and one for CSAM, and an administrative professional staff seat. Additionally, there are two seats from Bloomfield College, one for non-voting faculty and one for non-voting staff. To run these elections, Tim will send out emails to solicit nominations.
- **Arnold Korotkin** asks for clarification on the number of adjunct seats up for election.
- **Tim Gorman** clarifies that there are not yet two adjunct faculty seats because the Constitution has not been changed yet to reflect two adjunct seats.
- **Tim Gorman** reminds the Senate that e-mails will be sent to the populations where there are open seats soliciting nominations. If you fall into one of these categories, think about self-nomination or think of someone who would be a good candidate. “We want to make this a diverse and representative body, and to do that, we have to kind of get the word out and actively recruit people.”

## 7. Additional Senate Business

***Amendment to item 7:*** President Koppell is not able to join us. No questions were submitted in advance.

- **Erik Jacobson** invites people to join that committee in his capacity as the acting chair of the Constitution Committee. “For those of you that were here last spring, I think we were very, very close to it being done. We just need to tweak one or two little phrases, so I would welcome anybody else’s contribution to the Constitution Committee. I am also the acting

chair of the Committee for Just and Sustainable Practices.” Erik asks anyone who is interested in joining either committee to send him an email.

- **Shannon Bellum** offers the clarification that the Constitution and Election committees must be populated by voting senators. The Just and Sustainable Practices committee can be anyone in the university community.
- **Mary Wallace**, the president of the adjunct union, asks, as part of the Constitution work, to examine the number of adjuncts and maybe introduce a ratio, which is in place for professional staff, for faculty, and for the teaching faculty.
- **David Trubatch** reminds the group that the Senate Meeting is on the schedule of meetings.
- **Provost Gonzales** introduces new members of administration:
  - **Jessica Murphy** - Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Success, and Academic Innovation
  - **Dr. Frederick Bonato** - Interim Dean of the College for Community Health
  - **Meredith Gatzke** - Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer
- **Christina Rodriguez-Unalt** introduces herself as a new CART Faculty Senator and head of the illustration program.
- **Jayne Ganey** introduces herself as inclusive Excellence Programs and Engagement Specialist under Dr. Ashante Connor, Associate Vice President of Inclusive Excellence and Special Advisor to the President in the Office of Inclusive Excellence and Institutional Equity (IE<sup>2</sup>).
- **Jason Abbott** is introduced as a visiting associate professor from the University of Louisville with expertise in national security and intelligence with a specialization in China and technology.
- **Shannon Bellum** asks the council chairs to introduce themselves and some of the initiatives they are working on.
  - **David Trubatch** introduces himself as a faculty member in the School of Computing and Chair of the Academic Affairs Council. He reminds the group that much of the work of the Senate happens in the Councils. He is hoping that the Councils are active this year. He notes that we have grown rapidly as of late and there are operational items that have academic consequences. “My interest is making sure that we have the operational capacity to affect good academic decision making.” The Senate is a University Senate representing not only faculty, but professional staff, non-tenure track faculty, adjuncts, and students. “That places the University

Senate as, in some ways, sometimes more of a custodian or guardian of good shared governance, rather than even necessarily the recommendation maker.” A particular item of interest for the Academic Affairs Council is the curriculum process. There is an opportunity to improve operations. Clarity is important as operations impact academic decision making. The members of the Academic Council are welcome to also bring new business. The Council will also take referrals from the full Senate or the Senate Executive Board.

- **Lauren Carr** introduces herself as the Chair of the Administrative Affairs Council and associate professor/area head for animation and visual effects in the School of Communication and Media. She plans to build on the work of previous Chair, Shannon Bellum and there are great ideas in mind that she would like to pursue. She welcomes suggestions from the community and asks for suggestions to be e-mailed to her.
- **Pascale Lafountain** introduces herself as a faculty member in the Department of World Languages and Literature. She has been serving as vice president of the University Senate for several years and is now chair of the Student Affairs Council. The Council focuses on student quality of life on campus, including communications, dining, transportation, advising, policies (ex. preferred name), accessibility, health center-related issues, and parking safety concerns. The speaker believes that transparency and communication between students, Senators, and other university departments are crucial for addressing systemic issues and ensuring a better campus environment and that issues are addressed and resolved efficiently. Upcoming items include parking issues and a change in status for graduate students, which may be a Senate issue or not. The Council is open to new issues and encourages students to share their experiences and concerns in chat or e-mail.

## 8. Open Floor

- **Shannon Bellum** opens the floor.
- **Question from the chat from Laurel Brolly:** I have a question and it is a follow up from last year about dependent tuition waivers and if it is still in the works to increase it to 100% 😊

- **Shannon Bellum** notes it would have been a good question for President Koppell.
- **Laurel Brolly** notes that the question was submitted to the President's Town Hall but was not addressed.
- **Lauren Carr** stated that this was an item being worked on in the Administrative Affairs Council.
- **Shannon Bellum** reminds the room that the resolution was passed and is waiting for comment from the President.
- **David Trubatch** wants to remind people about "how the Senate has functioned when it has functioned well." When a member of the university community sees an issue or concern, even if they are not sure if it's systemic, please contact the Senator who represents them. If you are not sure of your representation, contact the Senate Executive Board. The Senate has history of collecting information, and then sometimes, if it's a complex situation, creating reports. The Councils usually collect information that is used to make a recommendation. As agreed in the Senate Constitution, it's then incumbent upon the president of the university, on behalf of the administration, to give a response. The Senate makes recommendations, not decisions. The Senate Constitution is a consensus document that states that if a recommendation of the Senate is not going to be taken up, a rationale should be provided. This is the Senate process. "Making that process work in a consistent and organized way is an ongoing project, but I think all parties are committed to it. That's a brief overview of how we should work, and how we aim to work, and how we do sometimes actually work and improving the whole functioning of the university."

## 9. Meeting Adjournment

- **Shannon Bellum** calls for adjournment.
- Moved by **David Trubatch**.
- Seconded by **Pascale Lafountain**.
- **Meeting adjourned: 4:47 PM**