
Minutes of the University Senate Meeting

Date: November 20, 2023

Location: 178 Dickson Hall, Montclair State University (Hybrid Meeting)

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

- **Presiding Officer:** Shannon Bellum
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2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the **October 30th** meeting:
 - **Moved by:** Eric Jacobson
 - **Seconded by:** Bill Sullivan
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3. Senate President's Report (Shannon Bellum)

- **Support for Immigrant and DACA Students:** Reminder of available resources and webpage; requests for updates or additional needs should be directed to the executive board.
- **Recommendation Responses:** Awaiting final responses from the President's office, expected by the end of the year.

Comments/Questions:

- **Kate Temoney:** Advised verbal communication rather than email when assisting undocumented students due to privacy concerns.
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4. Senate Business Items

4.1. First Reading: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

- **Presented by:** Erik Jacobson
- **Key Changes Proposed:**
 1. **Article 3, Section A:** Update definitions to include NTTP status (Non-Tenure Track Professional).

2. **Voting Membership:** Change to ratio-based representation (1:25 for faculty, NTPPs, professional staff, and librarians).
3. **Additional Representatives:** Increase at-large and adjunct representation; introduce a graduate student seat.
4. **Non-Voting Membership:** Replace the fixed list of deans and officers with general categories.
5. **New Units:** Guidelines for establishing and seating representatives for newly created or merged colleges.

Discussion Points:

- Concerns about graduate student representation process and eligibility.
 - Clarification of professional staff categories and non-academic units.
 - Suggestions to simplify and combine at-large seats for clarity.
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4.2. Bylaw Proposal: Recording Senate Meetings

- **Proposal for Recording Guidelines:**
 1. Allow assistive technology for synchronous attendees.
 2. Prohibit unauthorized AI or bot-based recordings.
 3. Require 72-hour notice for media recording requests.
 4. Official minutes as the definitive record.

Motion: To pass by unanimous consent.

- **Moved by:** Bill Sullivan
 - **Seconded by:** Catherine Baird
 - **Outcome:** Approved.
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5. Council Reports

- **Academic Affairs (David Trubatch):**
 - Focus on curriculum review, policy development, and faculty evaluation criteria.
 - Collaboration with administration emphasized.
- **Administrative Affairs (Lauren Carr):**
 - **Parking Issues:** Reports of students parking in faculty lots; ongoing discussions with Parking Services.
 - **Dean Search Guidelines:** In progress.
 - **Safety Report:** New victim services role in the campus police department.

- **Student Affairs (Pascal LaFountain):**
 - **Ad Drop Communication:** Recommendation to improve transparency on assessments during the add/drop period.
 - **Student Mental Health Days:** Discussion of SGA's proposal for mental health days.
 - **Gender-Inclusive Restrooms:** Exploring options in University Hall.
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6. Union Reports

- **AFT Local 1904 (Catherine Baird):**
 - Teaching faculty agreement posted.
 - Trauma counseling benefit for members.
 - **Adjunct Union (Mary Wallace):**
 - **Professor Emeritus Title:** First adjunct awarded.
 - **Adjunct Orientation:** Pilot program for spring.
 - **Advisory Council:** Collaboration with the provost for adjunct representation.
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7. Caucus Reports

- **Disability Caucus (Alicia Broderick):**
 - Productive meeting with VP Don Soufleris on supporting disabled students.
 - Next meeting: January 27, 2-3 PM.
 - **Montclair Votes (Arnie Korotkin):**
 - Successful voter registration drive; Montclair won the **New Jersey Ballot Bowl**.
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8. Administration Reports

- **Provost's Office (Junius Gonzales):**
 - Updates on international education initiatives (Tim White), HR updates (Meredith Gatzke), and interdisciplinary initiatives (Kate Temoney).
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9. Adjournment