

---

## Minutes of the University Senate Meeting

**Date:** December 18, 2024

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

**Meeting Documents:** [2024-12-18 Meeting Documents](#)

---

### Senate Membership Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

I. Ren, L. Carr, C. McKinley, C. Rodriguez-Unalt, D. Trubatch, C. Baird, T. Gorman, C. Dilkes, S. Baglieri, E. Jacobson, W. Sullivan, A. Broderick, S. Bellum, A. Beringer, P. La Fountain, D. Peterka-Benton, J. Baldwin LeClair, A. Rzepka, D. Blake, C. Reinisch, S. Collins, K. Temoney, R. Kunstadter, D. Chong, S. McCarthy, L. Gavin, L. LeFever, N. Panorkou, A. Korotkin

Voting Members Missing:

O. Gharehgozli, S. Mamonov, S. Sangregorio, V. Nauta, J. Alvares, M. Kamenetskiy, M. Heller, M. Houston

---

## Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

- **Presiding Officer:** Shannon Bellum
  - **Additional Item (Eric Jacobson):** The Mellon Foundation awarded the University a million dollars to expand the Native American Indigenous studies program and to create the New Jersey Center for Indigenous Justice.
- 

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the **November 20th** meeting:
    - **Deferring until next meeting** by Shannon Bellum while Sarah Sangregorio (Recording Secretary) is on leave
- 

### 3. Report from SGA President

- No report
-

## 4. Senate Business Items

### 4.1. Second Reading: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

- **Presented by:** Erik Jacobson
- **Key Changes Proposed:**
  1. **Article 3, Section A:** no update
  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.

#### Comments/Questions:

- **David Trubatch:** Voiced concerns about graduate student representation process and eligibility. Suggested this issue be severed so voting could continue on other changes.
  - **Outcome:**
    - Each section will be voted on individually
    - Third Reading in January 2025
- 

## 5. Items for Senate Vote/Affirmation

- **Christina Dilkes as Temporary Recording Secretary**

**Motion:** To pass by unanimous consent.

- **Moved by:** Shannon Bellum
  - **Seconded by:** Bill Sullivan
  - **Outcome:** Approved.
- 

## 5. Council Reports

- **Academic Affairs (David Trubatch):**
  - Collaboration with Vice Provost Jessica Murphy to clarify and improve processes for undergraduate curriculum.
    - Shared intention to improve the effectiveness, timeliness, and transparency of these processes in a manner consistent with shared governance.

- Current Plans: Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the Academic Policy Committee of the Office of the Provost either have been or will be asked to draft or share a new charge for their respective committees, as per the 2020 curriculum plan.
      - With succeeding input from the Office of the Provost and the Academic Affairs Council of the Senate.
    - Ongoing: plans to convene a working group on academic information technology for research and teaching, with call for volunteers, regardless of Senate membership.
  - **Administrative Affairs (Lauren Carr):**
    - **Dean Search Guidelines:** In progress with hopes of applying guidelines to Associate Dean searches.
    - **Safety Committee (Arnold Korotkin):** No December meeting, no report
    - **Pascale LaFountain:** Question re: administrative review process update and Senate roll in process
      - **Outcome (Shannon Bellum):** Shannon Bellum is Chair while Sarah Sangregorio is on leave. Recently met with Provost Gonzalez with plans to move ahead with a pilot of six administrator reviews in the spring, using a consultant firm (Buck). The committee compiled substantial data and guidelines for the partnering firm, who will take direction from the committee.
        - Information regarding process will be updated in January 2025 meeting. Students, subordinates, and peer colleagues will be tapped to complete surveys, which will be compiled and reported to University by consulting firm.
        - Provost's office will run surveys, with Senate oversight.
  - **Student Affairs (Pascale LaFountain):**
    - **Student Mental Health Days:** Discussion of SGA's proposal for mental health days with input from Emily Isaacs, with plans to work with OFE to improve communication to professors regarding mental health and student absences.
    - **Gender-Inclusive Restrooms:** Outreach to Facilities for signage and room list.
      - Ongoing: Collaborate with Office of Social Justice and Diversity
    - **Parking:** Discussion re: parking deck access and surface parking for students
      - Faculty must process two separate orders to purchase deck access and gain free access to surface parking.
    - **Campus Food Insecurity:** Upcoming report collaborating with faculty Lauren Dinour.
    - **Federal Work Study:** Ongoing discussions re: budget constraints and its impact on services including lab access.

---

## 5. Standing Committees

- No reports

---

## 6. Union Reports

- **AFT Local 1904 (Catherine Baird):**
  - executive board for the Council of the New Jersey State College Locals up for reelection. Current president is not running.
  - Preparing for the possible changes to higher ed at the state level.
  - Meetings will move to 2pm start for realigned calendar.
- **Adjunct Union (Mary Wallace):**
  - **Pilot Adjunct Orientation:** First three meetings mandatory. Successful first meeting.

---

## 7. Voices of the Community

- **Caucus Report:** No report
- **International Advisory Committee (Daniel Mengara):** Completed audit of all University international activities
  - Finalized summary report with recommendations will be made public via Canvas and drafted report is in Senate Drive.
- **Open Floor**
  - **Bill Sullivan** voiced concerns regarding dependent health insurance for international students.
    - **Outcome:** Student Affairs Council will follow up with Cristiana Kunyczka in Office of Global Engagement.

---

## 8. Report from Senate President (Shannon Bellum)

- Discussion with the Provost re: department bylaws guidelines and repository will begin Spring semester.
  - **Laura Field** reminded that Local Union reviews guidelines.
- Wednesday Senate meetings will change to 90 minutes in Spring to accommodate the realigned calendar. New in-person meeting space will be School of Business room 140.

---

## 9. Administration Reports

- **Provost's Office (Junius Gonzales):**
  - Updates from Chairs Council, possible Chair onboarding, and PD funding (Lyndal Khaw); accelerated recertification of Carnegie Community Engagement Classification with April 1 deadline (Mark Allman), and farewell to Associate Provost Kenneth Sumner.

---

## 10. Adjournment