
Minutes of the University Senate Meeting

Date: January 29, 2025

Location: 140 School of Business, Montclair State University and Zoom (Hybrid Meeting)

Meeting Documents: [2025-01-29 Meeting Documents](#)

Senate Membership Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

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

Voting Members Missing:

S. Collins, V. Nauta, A. Beringer, J. Alvares, D. Blake, S. McCarthy, M. Kamenetskiy, O. Gharehgozli, S. Sangregorio, M. Houston, L. Gavin

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

- **Presiding Officer:** Shannon Bellum
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2. Call for Quorum

- 27 present, quorum reached
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3. Approval of Minutes

- Deferred until next meeting
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4. Report from President Koppell

- Discussion of current political climate and Executive Orders: University administration is careful with communication so that misinformation is not disseminated and “we are deeply, deeply engaged in understanding and trying to be ready for anything that comes anything that comes from the administration

and communicate to our elected representatives and others what our concerns are with any policy proposals.”

- If someone in the campus community is met with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), they should direct them to the University Police Department, as per the Immigrant Trust Directive.
- Reminder of upcoming Presidential Excellence Awards, which will occur on 5/19/2025.
- Additional information regarding NJCU: Montclair replied to the request for partner proposals but the process is in its early stages. The proposal allows Montclair to invest in student success with another institution who is aligned with Montclair’s mission.
- State funding: may be “tight” and Montclair students are already funded (at a per student basis) at a lower level than students at other universities.

Comments:

- **Bill Sullivan** ceded his time to an international graduate student representative.
 - **Representative**, speaking on behalf of international graduate students: [See complete speech here](#).
 - **Outcome:** Senate, specifically the Student Affairs Council, will work with the President to find a resolution.
- **David Trubatch:** question regarding DEI
 - **President Koppel:** “the values of this institution and the commitment to our mission to, and I said, we define our purpose as creating opportunities for every member of society, fully representative of the diversity of society [...] we live in a diverse society with people who have a multitude of backgrounds, identities, belief systems, orientations, and Montclair State University exists as a place that is accessible to everyone. We are not going to change that mission. We are not going to shrink away from it. We will comply with the law.”
 - **Adam Rzepka:** follow up regarding communication to students about policy.
 - **Outcome:** Students are welcome to meet with the President, and communication regarding current political changes are still in discussion to avoid miscommunication.

5. Senate Business Items

5.1. Third Reading: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

- **Presented by:** Erik Jacobson
- **Vote:**
 1. **Article 3, Section A:** Pass
 2. **Voting Membership:** Pass

3. **Additional Representatives:** Pass
4. **Non-Voting Membership:** Pass
5. **New Units:** Pass
6. **Graduate Student inclusion in Senate:** Pass

5.2. First Reading: Dean Search Guidelines

- Senate feedback requested over the next few weeks
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6. Council Reports

- **Academic Affairs (David Trubatch):** in Senate Drive
 - Additional report from University foundation will be included in Senate Google Drive.
 - **Administrative Affairs (Lauren Carr):** in Senate Drive
 - **Student Affairs (Pascale LaFountain):** in Senate Drive
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7. Administration Reports

- **Provost's Office (Junius Gonzales):**
 - Introduction of Kyle Doback, Senior Director of Curriculum, and Adam Rathbun, Vice President of Finance
 - Staffing changes: Emily Isaacs will be the Interim Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Stefanie Brachfeld will be the Interim Dean of the Graduate School.
 - Milton Fuentes: Information on Excelencia and Montclair's work to obtain the Seal of Excelencia, a national certification for institutions intentionally serve Latino students.

Comments: question regarding Spring 2025 classroom shortages

- **Outcome:** deferred until data has been assessed.
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8. Voices of the Community

- **Moment of Silence for former Senator Jean Alvares**
- **Caucus Reports**
 - **MSU Safety Committee (Arnold Korotkin):** Managing Director of Emergency Preparedness, Rich McAuliffe, discussed training, policy development and

planning. He is available to conduct training and drills throughout the year so community members know what to do in an emergency and what you may be able to do to remain safe until PD, EMS, and other emergency services arrive. McAuliffe offers several training programs such as “When Seconds Count,” a program that instructs the participants on what to do in an emergency until help arrives. If anyone is interested in this, please reach out to Rich (Email: mcauliffe@montclair.edu Phone: 973-655-2400) and he will set it up.

9. Adjournment