

University Senate

May 14, 2025 | 2:00 P.M. | SBUS 140 & Zoom

- Meeting Minutes: C. Dilkes

Senate Membership Attendance

Voting Members in Attendance:

S. Baglieri, C. Baird, S. Bellum, A. Beringer, A. Broderick, L. Carr, S. Collins, C. Dilkes, T. Gorman, A. Korotkin, R. Kunstadter, L. LeFever, S. McCarthy, C. McKinley, V. Nauta, C. Reinisch, A. Rzepka, K. Temoney, D. Trubatch, A. Toro Carnavale, W. Sullivan, E. Jacobson, P. La Fountain

Voting Members Missing:

J. Baldwin LeClair, D. Blake, D. Chong, L. Gavin, O. Gharehgozli, M. Heller, M. Houston, M. Kamenetskiy, S. Mamonov, N. Panorkou, D. Peterka-Benton, I. Ren, C. Rodriguez-Unalt, S. Sangregorio

Meeting Documents:

📎 2025-05-14 Meeting Documents

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

- **Call to Order:** 2:10 PM
- **Shannon Bellum** welcomes the group to the Senate meeting.

2. Call to Quorum

- **Tim Gorman** and **Christina Dilkes** confirm that we have a quorum.

3. Land Acknowledgement Statement

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

4. Senate President Welcome

- **Shannon Bellum** reminds those assembled that the stack system is used for senators' questions and comments, requiring attendees to state their identity aloud for accessibility. Attendees who are not Senators - voting or non-voting - should refrain from speaking out or raising concerns before the designated section of the agenda.

5. Reminder of Meeting Recording Policy

- **Tim Gorman** reminds attendees that a [bylaw was passed in November](#) regarding the recording of University Senate meetings, which includes rules regarding the use of recording assistive technologies and the recording of the meeting by members of the media. **Tim** reminds the group that he will field requests for authorization to record a meeting in advance of the meeting. **Tim** spells out his email address: gormant@montclair.edu. **Tim** also states that the minutes of the meeting are the official record.

6. Approval of the Minutes

- **Shannon Bellum** calls for the approval of the March minutes.
 - The motion to approve via acclamation is made by **Laureen LeFever**.

7. Council Reports

- **Administrative Affairs (Lauren Carr)**
 - [Workday Student update in report](#)
- **Academic Affairs(David Trubatch)**
 - UUCC update–**David** states that the UUCC will draft a charge for the committee, to be presented in October, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost.
 - CHSS restructuring–“Some faculty members on the Academic Affairs council have communicated with the council, so we're going to understand and follow up and see if there's a role for the Council or the Senate there. I want to reiterate that the Senate and the Council are stewards of shared governance, and just myself personally, I don't foresee the senate making specific recommendations about the restructuring of CHSS. The role of the Senate is to advocate and assure that there's shared governance.”
 - Foundation Report–**David** sits in on the Foundation–a separate entity from the University–meetings and hopes to see how the

Senate can use its collective power to encourage donations that benefit the university and benefit students. Two examples were given to show success—the lacrosse team’s successful bid to stay in the NCAA and the AFT scholarship fund.

- Creation of Committee on Freedom of Expression still in the formative stages.
- **Student Affairs (Pascale Lafountain)**
 - [Course scheduling concerns](#) were shared in a report (with notes from Registrar Eileen Kearney) with Wendy Lin-Cook, without a request for response.
 - Major concerns included irregular spacing between meetings, unplanned switches in modality, mismatch of modalities to pedagogy, inappropriate or ill-equipped classroom assignments, hidden course sections, and uneven distribution of impact.

8. Standing Committees

- **Constitution (Erik Jacobson)**
 - Committee will reconstitute with new senators and next academic year will look for areas that need updates, which will include the election schedule.
- **Just and Sustainable Practices (Erik Jacobson)**
 - Committee looks forward to expanding its work on campus next academic year, networking with SGA and administration.
- **Elections (Tim Gorman)**
 - Constituency elections
 - Contested election results
 - Bloomfield College Faculty—**Zachary Aidala**
 - 2 CHSS NTTP—**Sarah Ghoshal** and **Alfredo Toro Carnevali**
 - Nursing NTTP—**Sherod Nicholas**
 - CHSS Professional Staff—**Patrick Haggerty**
 - CCHL Professional Staff—**Shannon Bellum**
 - Administrative Professional Staff—**Antonio Talamo**
 - Uncontested elections given symbolic vote from **Tim Gorman**
 - 2 CCHL Faculty—**Yeon Bai** and **Clewiston D. Challenger**

- CSAM Faculty–**Meghann Smith**
- 3 CHSS Faculty–**Pascale Lafountain, Fanny Lauby, and Tim Gorman**
- SBUS NTTP–**William Colucci**
- 2 CART Professional Staff–**Brooke Garlick and Susan Nowak**
- 2 CEEL Professional Staff–**Anastasia Spadaccini and Marshal Chaifetz**
- Bloomfield Professional Staff–**Nikki Kurzynowski**
- Library Professional Staff–**Kevin Handeli**
- 2 Adjunct Faculty–**Carl Gunhouse and Jean-Wilner (JW) Alexandre**
- Fall 2025: 6 constituency seats are vacant and will become at-large seats up for election

9. Report from Senate President (Shannon Bellum)

- Additional information re: Caucuses–“The Senate recognizes and affirms employees' right to form and organize an interest group [...] And we believe caucuses build community and a sense of belonging and advance the university's mission. And caucuses by tradition have been welcome in the community section of our monthly meetings where they can share news and connect with the broader campus community.”

10. Senate Business Items

- First Reads–none
- Second Reads
 - Dean's Search Guidelines–**Shannon Bellum** states that the Provost has reviewed the guidelines, offered minor changes, and is looking forward to implementing them.
 - Accepted with unanimous consent
 - Working Group-Course scheduling policies and procedures. **Shannon Bellum** states that the President has reviewed the guidelines and finds them acceptable.
 - Discussion:
 - **Pascale Lafountain** asks about the implementation timeline, which was given as “starting over the summer.”

- **Susan Baglieri** asks if the Administrative Affairs Council or the full Senate will recommend members. **Shannon Bellum** states that the Administrative Affairs Council will accept nominations or interest, and those names will be brought to the full Senate for approval.
 - **Bill Sullivan** asks how recommendations from the group will be implemented. David Trubatch answers “we haven't recommended to the administration exactly how they're supposed to take the information and use it, but the group's information will be report[ed] back to the Senate and they'll become public documents of the Senate.”
 - Accepted by acclamation
- Items for Senate Discussion/Vote/Affirmation
 - Recommendation on Collaborative Defense of Higher Education, which states, “The University Senate recommends that the University Administration, including the President of the University and the Board of Trustees, continue to actively engage and collaborate across the higher-education sector in order to protect and advance higher-education institutions and their overall capacity to realize their essential missions and roles.” [See complete recommendation here](#). The recommendation is in reference to the Rutgers Mutual Academic Defense Compact sent to the Executive Board.
 - Motion to suspend normal rules for vote:
 - Discussion: **Bill Sullivan** recommends taking additional time to think issues through.
 - **Shannon Bellum** and **David Trubatch** argue to move quickly with this recommendation and then modify it later.
 - Suspension of rules passes with 70.8% (17 of 24 responses) via Google Form
 - Discussion:
 - **Bill Sullivan** asks for the reasoning behind the recommendation. **David** replies that it shows that the Senate desires participation in the

national movement begun by Rutgers University, lets Montclair's administration know that the Senate supports continued efforts, and asks for administrative transparency and communication.

- **Adam Rzepka** noted that the recommendation does not specifically ask for a vote on joining the Rutgers Mutual Academic Defense Compact. He offered a Resolution to Seek a Mutual Compact of New Jersey Colleges and Universities in Defense of Academic Freedom, Free Expression, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise for vote. [See complete resolution here.](#)
 - Discussion: **Pascale Lafountain** asks what the difference is between a recommendation and resolution and if both recommendation and resolution can be voted on at this meeting, which **Shannon Bellum** answers affirmatively. **Susan Baglieri** asks how much financially the University has committed to these types of lawsuits. No information on finances has been given, as per **David Trubatch**, but notes that some lawsuits are not proposed through the University, but through other higher education organizations and the State Attorney General's Office. **Alicia Broderick** states that the recommendation should be voted on first and the resolution second. Shannon moves to discuss this document after the vote on the recommendation is completed.
- Recommendation passes with unanimous consent
- Return to Discussion on Resolution to Seek a Mutual Compact of New Jersey Colleges and Universities in Defense of Academic Freedom, Free Expression, Institutional Integrity, and the Research Enterprise. **Bill Sullivan** asks for clarity regarding the intent of the resolution. **Adam** answers that, if passed, the resolution joins Rutgers' compact. **Shannon** counters that there is no compact completed, so there is nothing to join as of yet. **Bill** states that the language seems to compel the University to do something, which the Senate does not do and that there

are different interpretations of the resolution. **David** and **Bill** question the last three sections of the resolution, especially issues of funding and publicization. **Ruth Kunstadter** raises questions about the funding and resource aspects of the resolution, and states that the language is “more involved” and “problematic.” **Adam** states that this is the language Rutgers uses, and **Shannon** explains that Rutgers faculty stated that Montclair’s Senate did not need to use the exact language of their document, and reiterates that the compact has not yet been formed and the recommendation is enough to stay “looped in” on its formation.

- Motion to Table by **Courtney Reinisch**. Seconded by **Lauren Carr**. Motion to Table passed with majority vote (78.3%, 18 of 23 responses) via Google Form.

11. NAL Report (Catherine Baird)

- **Catherine** yields time

12. Adjunct Union (Mary Wallace)

- Congratulations to **Arnie Korotkin** for retiring
- Acknowledgement that the Senate has two new adjunct Senators while some Senates have none

13. Voices of the Community

- Caucus Reports
 - Disability Caucus
 - Montclair Votes (no report)
 - Open Floor
 - **Marshal Chaifiz** thanks **Alicia Broderick** and **Elaine Gerber** for assisting the disability committee

14. Gratitude and Acknowledgments

- **Shannon Bellum** thanks senators who are not returning, especially **Arnie Korotkin**.

- **Erik Jacobson** congratulates **Shannon Bellum** on being the first professional staff Senate President.

15. Meeting Adjournment

- **Shannon Bellum** calls for motion to adjourn
- **Meeting adjourned: 4:11PM.**

University Senate Organizational Meeting

May 14, 2025 | 4:13 P.M. | SBUS 140 & Zoom

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1. Seating of New Senators

- **Shannon Bellum** announced new senators **Antonio Talamo, Ram Misra, Yi Luo, Brooke Garlick, Fanny Lauby, Meghann Smith, William Colucci, Susan Nowak, Patrick Haggerty, Sarah Ghoshal, Anastasia Spadaccini, Marshal Chaifetz, Yeon Bai, Clewiston D. Challenger, Sherod Nicholas, Zachary Aidala, Nikki Kurzynowski, Kevin Handeli, Carl Gunhouse, and Jean-Wilner (JW) Alexandre.**
- Shannon let senators know that Google Forms for Council assignments would be sent out in the coming week, information about senator orientation would be forthcoming, and that senators are welcome to explore and join other Senate committees.

2. Executive Board

- **Shannon Bellum** nominated **Tim Gorman** for Senate Vice President, filling a vacant seat.
 - Approved by unanimous consent.
- **Shannon Bellum** nominated **Christina Dilkes** for Senate Corresponding Secretary.
 - Approved by unanimous consent.

- Meeting Adjournment
- **Shannon Bellum** calls for motion to adjourn.
- **Meeting adjourned:** 4:21 PM.