1. The January 19, 2011 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Senate President Dr. Saundra Collins.

2. Recording Secretary Dr. David Benfield called the roll. Present at the meeting were the following members: Allen, Alvares, Benfield, Chapel, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Cutler J, Dickinson, Ficke, Gardin, Gaynor, Gill, Gingerich, Hunt, Kelshaw, Lakusta, Lemesianou, Lin, Loysen, Mengara, Meneghin, Morrissey (Cottrell), Nurse, Oluwole, Pardo, Pennington, Poon, Powell, Roberts, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Topic, Wilson, & Wolfson.

3. The Minutes of the 11/17/10 meeting of the University Senate were approved.

4. Dr. Fredrick Gardin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education, was officially seated as a new Senator representing the CEHS.

5. Under the heading of good news, Senate President Collins reported that she and Provost Gingerich hosted a very successful “Coffee Break” on December 15th in the Formal Dining Room. Thirty-nine faculty members attended, holding conversations on a variety of wide-ranging topics. Senator Wolfson was congratulated on being elected President of AFT Local 1904. Senator Wolfson has resigned his at-large seat on the Senate but he will continue to attend meetings as an ex officio member of the University Senate.

6. Senator Alvares provided the Elections Committee report, noting that voting for the six at-large vacant seats on the University Senate will be held during the period beginning February 10th and ending on February 14th. Constituency elections will follow.

7. Provost Gingerich provided the report from the University Administration, pointing out that as of today, undergraduate enrollment was up by 217 students over last spring but graduate enrollment was down by 67 students resulting in an overall gain of 150 students. Further college by college enrollment details were provided.

Senator Alvares asked about unregistered students. There are university-wide nearly 1,000 students who attended in the Fall but have not registered yet for the Spring semester. However, Dean Ficke noted that traditionally graduate students register late.

The Provost said that MSU is working hard to have some online programs running by the Fall 2011 semester. A different business model is needed for such programs. For example, the typical online student is a single mother. Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Assessment Dr. Joanne Cote-Bonanno is coordinating the online program efforts.
The Provost noted that the Bell Tower implementation team is new and that it will be moving forward this year. He also remarked that the recommendations from the Governor’s Task Force on Higher Education are out and that they are very Rutgers-centric. It is not certain how much attention the Governor will give them. The report is available on the web and it should be considered and contemplated.


Provost Gingerich reported that MSU is in the process of hiring a director for a math emporium. He also noted that Winter Session enrollment increased to approximately 1,000 students from 700 students last year.

8. Senator Dickinson provided the Academic Affairs Council report. Mr. Jerry Collins, Coordinator of Student Conduct for the Dean of Students, will come in February and address the Senate on academic dishonesty. There is going to be a campus-wide dialogue on GenEd at scheduled individual college-meetings. At the end of the semester there will be a campus-wide meeting.

9. Senator Topic provided the Administrative Affairs Council report, noting that things were quiet and that the Council had no new issues.

10. NAL Representative Senator Benfield reported that negotiations at the local level continue to be productive and that negotiations at the state level are about to begin since the current contract expires on the 30th of June. New Local 1904 President Dr. Wolfson assured everyone that the provisions of the current contract will continue in place, if on July 1st a new contract has not been signed.

11. Senate President Collins invited Dr. Greg Waters to provide some background on Shared Governance at MSU.

Dr. Waters began by asking for a moment of silence to mark the recent passing of Dr. Lipman, founder of Montclair State’s acclaimed Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children.

He then provided some background history of the institution. The Higher Education Act of 1966 established the Department of Higher Education, the Board of Higher Education and local boards of trustees for each of the existing state colleges. Prior to 1969 faculty were represented by a Faculty Association. Within the Faculty Association there were committees and each committee worked with the principal administrative officer for that area of activity. In 1969 the Faculty Association linked to the NJEA. In 1972 the AFT won the election to be the official bargaining agent. There was a power struggle between the Chancellor and the local college presidents as to who was allowed to run the institutions. The AFT gained power and there was a brief strike in 1974.
A Faculty Senate was established but it had no authority to appoint committees. There were significant tensions between the DHE Chancellor and local campuses and also between the Faculty Senate and college administrators. For the 1987 Middle States accreditation there were 76 people on the Middle States report writing committee. It became clear that a new model was needed.

The Faculty Senate was often caught in the middle between administration and faculty when the delicate issue of appointing committees arose. The 1987 Middle States visiting team supported the expansion of the Senate. Thus, the current University Senate was born.

Senate President Collins thanked Dr. Waters who in turned credited emeritus professor Joe Moore for much of the material.


12. The Senate then voted to discuss the future of Shared Governance and to function as a Committee of the Whole for 30 minutes starting at 3:52 p.m. The time period was extended for another 20 minutes. There was a thoughtful and frank exchange of opinions.

13. Issues from campus constituencies: CHSS members raised questions about convocation scheduling and the weather. SBUS members offered suggestions for dealing with attendance at classes meeting on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving and for improving the Normal Avenue pedestrian crossing by installing better streetlights. CEHS members were concerned about the opening of the University before snow and ice removal was completed.

14. The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. David Benfield, Recording Secretary