I. The April 17, 2013 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:08 (S. Collins)

II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Chapel, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Das, Davis, Dickinson, Ficke, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Kelshaw, Lakusta, Lal, Lin, Mahadevan, McCann, Mengara, Morrissey (Cottrell), Nurse, Oluwole, Oosting, Poon, Powell, Rodak, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Wilson, Wolfson, Yu, and Zamanian.

III. Approval of March 20, 2013 minutes – approved

IV. Good News/Announcements

1) Welcome to a visiting scholar to the linguistics department from Northwest University in China.

2) Senator Rodak thanked those who completed the online veterans faculty development modules and asked if you are unable to complete it to let her know so she can redistribute the survey.

3) George Juzdan stated that the SGA had the idea for professors to attach voter registration forms to syllabi and was wondering if the Senate thought this would be a good idea. Senators noted that Government Relations and SDCL made significant efforts, a push is made during Orientation, and Local 1904 and 6025 have money available to student organizations relative to voter registration.

4) April 26 is an annual awards dinner honoring seven adjuncts who have been at the university for 20 years.

V. Elections Committee Report (Lin)

1) All 7 positions have been filled. The New senators will be seated on May 8. The elected senators are: CSAM – Jerry Alan Fails, CHSS – Jean Alvares and Daniel Mengara, CEHS- Fred Gardin and Douglas Murray, CART – Steve Oosting, Professional Staff – Kathleen Sadowsky, Nyieta Charlot and AJ Kelton.

2) Professional staff representatives need to be tied to the professional/technical human resources designation. One candidate did not qualify and rescinded their nomination during the election, but election results would have been the same.

VI. Representative to the BOT report (Baldwin-LeClair)

1) Our students spoke passionately about how tuition increases affect them. I encourage this body to think about how we can manage tuition costs.

2) Legal Counsel is analyzing the possibility to allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition.

VII. Report from Administration (Gingerich)

i) April 16 was our first annual celebration of grants. 185 separate grants were awarded over two years totaling $18-20 million. Those who submitted proposals but were not yet funded were also honored. April 18 is the 5th Annual Books Celebration. There are 60 books and media items, the largest amount ever. April 20th is the student research symposium.

ii) On April 11 CART held a fundraising and “friendraising” celebration.

iii) Faculty hiring is nearly concluded with very few failed searches and some outstanding additions. We are getting many of our first choices.

iv) Please ask your departments to offer as many summer courses as we can where the summer school tells you there is a need. Our goal is 7000 students which would be the largest class ever.

v) We have received approval from the state for a new BS in Public Health.

VIII. Academic Affairs Council Report (Cutler)

i) The council met to discuss the final draft of academic policy changes. We appreciate that many concerns are addressed, but we are worried that there doesn’t appear to be an exception to students not being allowed to declare a minor after 90 credits, and we think students should meet with advisor in new desired major rather than in current major when determining if they can switch. We are also worried that the five year graduation requirement for a double major is overly ambitious, especially considering how courses fill so quickly. The provost added a statement that exceptions to policies will be referred to the dean, whose decision is final.
We are looking at different plagiarism software, since SafeAssign is a Blackboard tool. It’s been suggested we look into an honor code. We are looking at the policy change on retaking Intro to Writing and Basic Skills math courses. It was requested that we look at minutes from previous honor code discussions to use as a reference if this discussion is opened up again.

There will be two more open forum gen ed conversations on May 2 and May 14 from 11-1 in Dickson 436.

IX. Administrative Affairs Council Report (Collins reporting for Oluwole)
   i) Shawn Connolly reported that the bollards around Kasser are not working and that repair work has not yet been scheduled. If the sign is out he will call the repair contractor.
   i) Campus Tobacco Policy Task Force Update (Gardin) – We met with Alan Camps from NJGASP, advisors on smoke-free policies. The state policy is that smoking is prohibited in indoor public spaces or workplaces. If smoke comes into the building, the policy can be enforced by people in charge of the spaces, campus police, or the public health department. Recommendations included using natural boundaries to better define smoking areas. It is easier to enforce the policy if we go 100% tobacco free. We need to be clear about the policy and should consider a trickled rollout. Questions included if the committee was looking at this as just a health issue or also a liberty issue. The committee is split on banning completely vs. finding a place on campus. The mission of the committee is to gather information and make a recommendation to the senate. Senator Rodak yielded her time to two student veterans who spoke forcefully to continue allowing smoking on campus. Some veterans are wondering if MSU is the place for them if smoking is banned. They suggested moving ashtrays further from building doors and finding a place where they can smoke. The provost will look into what impact state law has on the ability for universities to enact such policies.

X. Student Affairs Council Report (Allen)
   ii) Please send ideas for the Senate Book Award Essay contest by next Wednesday.

Xi. NAL Report (Benfield)
   iii) Ten $500 scholarships were awarded to deserving recipients. If you can, please donate to the scholarship fund.
   iv) The Union at the statewide council level has endorsed Montclair Alum Barbara Buono for Governor.

XII. Unfinished Business – Draft of Distinguished Professor Policy
   i) There is concern that an honorary designation and an LSPA rank each have the same name. Judith Hain clarified that material in the LSPA is informational, not negotiable, and it is old information. A Distinguished professor here is an honorific, not a rank. Discussion ensued as to whether this honorific should be given to people who have distinguished themselves as an administrator more so than as a professor. The question was also raised as to whether nominations can come from both administration and from faculty, and whether there should be a structured committee to nominate or whether the process should not be routine. President Collins will summarize the discussion and share it with the Senate before proceeding.

XIII. New Business
   ii) Issues from Campus (CART, CEHS, CHSS, CSAM, SBUS, Librarians, Professional Staff, At-Large)
      (1) Support staff has requested representation on the Senate. The constitution lists them as members, but other language excludes them.
      (2) Adjuncts have also requested representation.
      (3) Professional Staff have raised the question as to why they are not eligible for at-large positions and why they seem underrepresented in proportion to the amount of staff on campus.
      (4) CART has lost a beloved faculty member in Dean Drummond. There will be a concert on April 24 by the Harry Partch ensemble in his memory.
      (5) At-Large asked if there is a way to amend the constitution. The Constitution committee has identified issues that need to be addressed.

XIV. Adjournment at 4:42 p.m.
Minutes Approved May 8, 2013
Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary