I. The March 20, 2013 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:07 (S. Collins)

II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Allen, Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Chapel, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Das, Ficke, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Kelshaw, Lakusta, Lal, Lin, McCann, Nurse, Oluwole, Oosting, Pardo, Poon, Powell, Prezant, Rubin, Sadowsky, Sullivan, Wolfson, and Zamanian

III. Approval of February 20, 2013 minutes – approved

IV. Good News/ Announcements

- The next cross-disciplinary lunch series takes place on March 27. Dr. Luis San Vicente Portes will speak on “Women’s Empowerment: Social, Economic and Technical Aspects.”

- The Tobacco Task force had a successful open forum and received diverse feedback from a wide representation of campus

V. Elections Committee Report (Lin) – The call for nominations for constituency positions is out. Nominations remain open through March 22. We need nominations for CART.

VI. Report from Administration – Provost Gingerich

- Bond issue proposals were sent to the state. We sent 12 petitions – 6 for buildings and 6 IT proposals, including OneMontclair and lifecycle updating. We will not know anything until May or June. A committee will review all proposals from all schools and make a recommendation on a list of projects which the legislature then has 60 days to turn down.

- April 18 at 2:30 will be our 5th annual books reception. There are 54 items including digital publications. Our first annual grants recognition reception will take place on April 16 from 12:30-2:30 in the library periodicals reading room.

- Our distinguished teacher and distinguished scholar will each be giving a lecture. Christine Lemesianou, distinguished teacher, will speak on “Learning Unbound” on March 28 and distinguished scholar, Yasmin Besen-Cassino will speak on “Consuming Work: Teenage Labor and Finding Jobs after the Recession” on April 11.

- The Gen Ed committee prepared a document with an insightful and accurate description of where we are with regards to gen ed. The document will be circulated to the campus tomorrow and requests a conversation relative to the analysis.

- Bryan Murdock, Assistant Director of the Research Academy for University Learning, spoke about service learning, which has become very active. There is a University Community Partnership fair on March 27 to connect community organizations to the university. Service Learning is happy to assist anyone who wants to teach a community-based learning course. We assist with community-based pedagogies, risk management, student placement, and providing a stipend for teaching the course.
VII. Academic Affairs Council Report – Cutler – The Council received a final draft of the new academic policies from the provost’s office and will let him know if they have any comments.

VIII. Administrative Affairs Council Report – No Report

IX. Student Affairs Council Report – No Report

X. NAL Report – Benfield – Everyone is encouraged to attend the next union meeting where we will be discussing new bylaws which would make the NAL rep an office of the union, the 4 day summer schedule which now needs to be discussed each year, and the essential employee designation. Go to the website to read about scholarships with an April 1 deadline.

XI. New Business – Motion for a non-action committee of the whole conversation forum on the revision of the Gen ed program so that Kirk McDermid can hear the voice of the Senate was approved.

- Kirk McDermid is interested in hearing faculty reaction to the document. There is no strict timetable. The stated learning goals are independent of the content distribution of courses as we want to make students capable in many areas across disciplines. Please provide feedback to the gen ed email address. We are not looking to change the vision of gen ed that was set forth in 1998 but we want to revise the implementation and we will be starting a working group to address interdisciplinarity. An understanding of the purpose of gen ed should be pervasive across each gen ed course. Students should go into gen ed courses seeing how the course will help them reach gen ed goals and why those goals are important. I will be attending college meetings and publicizing open meetings for discussion once the dates are in place.

- The question was raised as to what percentage of gen ed courses are taught by adjuncts. We don’t currently know this but we would like to know. It could also be valuable to ask how gen ed is done at other schools so we do not need to reinvent the wheel. Gen ed should have a clear sense of purpose.

XII. Issues from Campus – Many lights on the Kasser chandeliers are out and the Kasser sign itself is not completely illuminated. Administrative affairs council will look into this.

XIII. Adjournment at 3:55 pm

Minutes Approved April 17 2013
Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary