I. The September 3, 2013 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:06 pm. (S. Collins) 

II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Allen, Alvares, Benfield, Chapel, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Fails, Gardin, Gaynor, Gill, Gingerich, Grinberg, Gurskis, Howell, Hunt, Kelshaw, Kelton, Lakusta, Lal, McCann, Mengara, Morrissey, Murray, Nurse, Oosting, Pardo, Pennington, Peterman, Powell, Prezant, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Wolfson, and Yu. 

III. Approval of May 8, 2013 minutes – approved 

IV. Good News/ Announcements 

1) L'Shana Tova to those observing the High Holy Days. 

2) The Senate office in College Hall sustained water damage. 

3) We’ll be looking at the time lapse between the resolution of parking issues and the release of holds on students’ accounts. 

4) We will hear the first state of enrollment report at the next meeting. 

V. Faculty Representative to Board of Trustees Report (Baldwin-LeClair) 

1) No report, but there is a lot of concern from faculty in CHSS regarding scheduling of classes. With higher enrollments it is difficult to accommodate all students, especially when four year graduation is a priority. The provost acknowledged this challenge and stated he is impressed with how the colleges and chairs have responded. 

VI. Report from Administration (Provost Gingerich) 

1) The provost shared a list of new faculty with their bios and research interests. This knowledge can be used to encourage cross-disciplinary and cross-departmental collaboration. 

2) We have two Syrian scholars on campus in response to an appeal for scholar rescue from the Institute for International Education. One faculty member is in linguistics and one is in art and design. We also are hosting two Syrian graduate students. 

3) A search is underway for a new director of the Research Academy for University Learning. 

4) Everyone who advises has been invited to an Advising Summit on September 18 to make sure everyone understands the new academic policies. 

5) Summer school has recovered the numbers that were lost when Pell Grants were removed for summer courses. 6835 students were enrolled in summer sessions and 1500 in winter session. These numbers are up 7% over last year on head count and 9% on student semester hours. Online courses were also up this summer with 155 online courses, 77 hybrid and 687 face to face courses. 

6) We are enrolling our second cohort of our two fully online programs in Educational Leadership and Child Advocacy. 60 students began in January, 55 are still enrolled. Up to 92 new students may be starting this fall and some certificate students will be graduating in December. 

7) Vice President Chapel responded to a query from Jean Alvares regarding transfer of course materials from Blackboard to Canvas. Everything will transfer over to the extent that the materials exist as files. You will likely need to tweak the materials. OIT has hired 40 student employees to assist with this transfer. Training sessions are already going on. Start training early so you have time to resolve any issues that may arise. 

VI. Q & A with President Susan Cole 

1) Departmental Enrollment plans: In response to a query, President Cole encouraged individual departments to develop individual enrollment plans. Departments don’t need to do it in the same way, but students should not need to wait to graduate because courses they need are not available. We also need to change the culture where students think they cannot take Friday or Saturday courses. In response to departments not being able to staff the required number of sections the president stated that issue can and should be fixed, even if it means hiring more adjuncts than a department is used to. 

2) The president confirmed that there are no plans for a hotel on campus. 

3) This will be the year where the University looks at where our graduates go and what happens to them. We need to know we are providing the services they need so they can thrive. We need to ensure that
our students are progressing through their programs at a satisfactory rate to save students time and money and increase their chances of graduating.

4) Senator Sullivan asked about the plan for higher education put out by President Obama. Dr. Cole stated that the government wants to spend financial aid dollars where students have success, but the challenge will be measuring success. She thinks Montclair will do fine on the score card but we need to keep it in mind.

5) President Cole spoke passionately about funding formulas for state universities in New Jersey, stating that rather than starting with complicated performance funding formulas, the state needs to begin by looking at the basics by setting up an appropriations model that accounts for student enrollment, how many degrees are offered, how many graduates, how many undergraduate vs graduate students, the cost of the degrees offered, and what fields are important for the economic priorities of the state. A critical question is what it should cost to educate a student.

6) Enrollments in core humanities disciplines are strong. We need to make sure that students who are heavily influenced towards career-oriented programs are also taking appropriate general education courses early on in their curriculum.

7) Feedback on Montclair’s new communication plan and video should be directed to the communications director.

X. New Business

1) The Senate voted in favor of having Mark Korlie continue in his role as the University Senate’s representative to the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

XI. Adjournment at 5:03 p.m.

Minutes Approved September 25, 2013
Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary