

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE OF MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

Montclair, NJ 07043

Meeting minutes for March 28, 2018

- I. The meeting was called to order at 2:50 pm
- II. Roll Call: Abrams, Allen, Alo, Alvares, Bellum, Berger, Berisha, Billings, Brook, Collins, Curnutt, Dacey, Dinour, Domine, Field, Fitzpatrick, Fleming, Friedman, Gaynor, Genise, Gingerich, Gurskis, Higgins, Jacobson, LaFountain, Lucas, Mamonov, McDermid, Misra, Murray, Noonan, Nurse, Panorkou, Pemberton, Specchio, Strickland, Sullivan, Trubatch, Vernon, Wolfson.
- III. Report from the Administration: (Gingerich)
 - a. University College (UC): Currently, UC is on track and an Advisory Team has been formed. Representatives from different Colleges formed the Advisory Committee. The main functions of this committee will be to ensure that the advising process for undeclared students are handled seamlessly. We want to prevent students from falling through the cracks. They will be involved in the search for the new college's positions, and handle communication back to their respective colleges. Jim German will be leaving but Associate Provost Joann Cote-Bonanno will take up the point responsibilities until the vacancy is filled. UC will be located where the Periodical section is now at the library and eventually UC will be located at College Hall. 15 positions are posted. Gen Ed199 will be run, but it will be handed off to the Deans of the colleges for their students. There will be a need for undeclared students but it will be separated and run from UC staff. For now they will be offering this one credit bearing course. Later it may be replaced with programming. We will need to evaluate how effective UC will be.
All documents, proposal from the Provost Office, GenEd Committee, are available in the Senate Canvas.
Discussion included Senator Trubatch, Wolfson, Genise, Noonan, McDermid, Bellum
 - b. Student Evaluation Process: Concerns have been raised regarding timing, and frequency of nudges in Canvas. Ken Sumner informed about possible dates in April. It will open April 16th, with reminders sent on April 23rd, 30th, May 7th, 9th, and 11th. It has been suggested that if the evaluation is kept open longer, they receive more responses from students. Trubatch suggested ending a memo with calendar dates and Senate could express opinion or concerns.
 - i. Brook: 1904 negotiable issues are related to surveys, timing and frequency. We will get a legal opinion on this.
Questions continue about the response rate from students. Provost points out only probationary personnel must do it. "The only questions here are about voluntary surveys. I don't understand what they are afraid of. We are a risk-adverse profession. There's nothing to lose."
Discussion included Senators Trubatch, Domine, Speechio, Field, Murray, Sullivan, Collins, Noonan, & Steve Johnson, Ken Sumner
 - c. Provost introduces VP Research Dean Graduate School, Scott Herness.

IV. Report from the Senate Representative on the CUE (Strickland)

In the last CUE meeting, we started with our goals and objectives but didn't decide the vision priorities from the president or the future direction we should go. We focused on 3 planning models that lead to different pathways. We did a preliminary SWOT analysis, it's draft, and we identified 6 strengths, 6 weakness, 8 opportunities and 8 threats.

V. Committee of the Whole

a. Socially Responsible Investment Policy (Pemberton)

The Task Force for Social Responsible Investments at MSU shared the Recommendation Proposal with the Senate. They encouraged an environmental commitment from faculty, administrators, staff, students, as well as the Montclair community.

The proposal includes the criteria for divestment, mainly divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies, investing in Green and Renewable Energy and Transportation, and future considerations of Ongoing and Emerging Issues Regarding Social Responsibility.

There are only suggested topics and based on the interest of students, faculty, and staff. The Committee can pursue further investigation and deliberation leading to other recommendation.

There is a Google drive with additional Resources and was shared recently. Committee welcomes Senate's input.

President Cole and Board of Trustees asked to move it asap. President Cole is looking forward to receiving the proposal and investigate it.

Motion to accept and passed by acclamation the proposal.

Discussion by Senators Trubatch, Speechio, Wolfson

b. Amendment to the Senate Constitution

This University Senate Membership proposal is very like the previous one, with minimum changes. The change is limited to article III section B voting membership only. These changes are based on the changes happening in the university, a diverse group shouldn't trouble the concept. The synopsis of changes are: increased CHSS, CSAM faculty by one seat (proportionality), increased specialist seats to 3 (proportionality), added 1 faculty seat for Nursing, changed staff from 4 seats to 9 specific seats, 6 seats tied to college/school (including Nursing), 3 specific seats for administration units not tied to a specific school or college, eligibility for 3 open at-large seats. The rational is that the college/school senate group should include a staff member who represents staff but is part of the delegation from the academic unit.

Retain 6 open at-large seats (3-non-academic unit staff,3-faculty/librarian/specialists), and 37 voting seats remain unchanged.

This is the third Reading and vote is needed, hoping to approve it.

Discussion included Senators Field, Sullivan, Misra, Curnutt, Alvares, Noonan, Abrams, Nurse, Higgins, Wolfson, Trubatch, Murray

Vote was taken: 22 present, 15 yes and 7 no.

VI. Council Reports

a. Academic Affairs (Domine)

i. The AAC is in the process of developing a set of recommendations regarding the university's curriculum action and a set of policies and decision-making processes pertaining to academic programs. The AAC welcomes additional inputs from senators and the wider university community to bring to the full senate for review.

ii. Gen Ed Committee (McDermid)

Please read the response to the Provost to our Memo. Here he mentioned they don't change curriculum but they are. The proposal didn't mentioned CAST and 199. We have a new proposal from the Provost today and they avoid to mentions topics such as: how undeclared students will be taught and by who, room scheduling, funding, staff unconstituent, some postings are up but not 199.

iii. Academic Information Technology Committee (AITC) (Jacobson)

The AITC met to discuss copyright issues with regards to digital resources. The library is putting a FAQ document about the topic and they will revise the draft in the next meeting. Erik will be happy to answer any question and welcome suggestions. The final document will be available on the AITC Canvas page.

VII. Student Affairs (McDermid) No report

VIII. NAL Report (Curnutt) We took 50 students to march in Washington DC. We coordinated an effort for reaffirmation to Union membership and beneficiary information.

IX. Elections (Field) We have opened nominations for the Executive Board.

X. Report of the Senate President (Trubatch)

XI. New Business

Noonan: Consideration for adding 1 voting Adjunct member and amend technical aspect concerns of the continuity of adjuncts.

The meeting was adjourned, 4:55 pm.