

## **THE UNIVERSITY SENATE of *Montclair State University***

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*Montclair, NJ 07043*

1. The April 13, 2011 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:12 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: Adarkar, Alvares, Benfield, Chapel, Chatterjee, Chrite (Hollister), Collins, Cutler J, Gardin, Gingerich, Hain, Hunt, Lakusta, Lemesianou, Morrissey, Nurse, Oluwole, Pardo, Pennington, Poon, Powell, Roberts, Specchio, Sullivan, Topic, Wilson, & Wolfson.

3. The minutes of the March 23, 2001 meeting were approved with the addition of the following: “In response to Senator Sullivan’s question about soil samples, Provost Gingerich asserted that the University undertook a very thorough environmental analysis of the soil at the site before proceeding with the purchase.”

It was noted that the recent weekend event for accepted Freshmen and their families was attended by over 3,000 persons of whom 1,100 will be members of the Class of 2015.

4. Senator Alvares provided the Elections Committee report. For the 2011 – 2014 term, Dr. Danne Davis was elected from the CEHS and from the SBUS Chiao Chang and Zaman Zamanian were elected.

5. Provost Gingerich provided the report from the Administration. He reminded everyone that on Saturday, April 16th the Student Research Symposium will be held. There will be over 240 student presentations. On Monday, April 18 the University will hold its celebration of authors of books and articles. There will soon be a booklet listing peer reviewed articles published during the last year. A grants celebration is coming and it will celebrate proposers as well as winners.

Senate President Collins asked the Provost to address the new policy for schedule changing. The Provost noted that the university will now require students to have Freshman advisor approval for a schedule change, especially for a change that would involve switching out of a Friday class. Dr. Bryan Terry, Associate Vice President for Enrollment & Student Academic Services, explained that students should be sent to the New Student Experience office for advising concerning proposed schedule changes.

6. Senate President Collins provided the Academic Affairs Council Report. Dean Morrissey of the CHSS introduced Dr. Melinda Knight, Professor of English.. Dr. Knight described the plan to provide a common book experience for undergraduate students, especially incoming Freshmen in the Academic Year 2011-2012. The program will be known as “The Montclair Book 2011” and the book chosen is “The Geography of Bliss” by Eric Weiner. [It was published in 2008 by the Hachette Book Group, NY, NY and is now available in paperback.]. Dr. Knight headed the

advisory group that put this program together. Students in both first year English courses and in the New Student Experience will be engaged with the book. Extra-curricular settings will be arranged to involve the campus more generally in the conversation. Dr. Knight noted that the major goals of the program are to celebrate the written word and to encourage reflection on our roles as both students and learners.

Senator Milos Topic was selected to serve as the Senate's representative to the Academic Technology Committee to replace Senator Wolfson.

Senator Adarkar, Chairperson of the GenEd 2002 Committee, reported that the campus wide discussion of GenEd 2002 is progressing. Also, Senator Jason Dickinson was approved as a member of the GenEd 2002 Committee representing (without a vote) the University Senate. Dr. Adarkar emphasized that GenEd 2002 is seen as a collective enterprise and he welcomed campus participation.

7. Senator Topic gave the Administrative Affairs Council report. His council has investigated MSU's posting policy for flyers. All flyers posted on campus must be stamped and approved. There is a two week posting period time limit. The Council shared the Senate's concerns about Lot 26 parking with Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Tim Carey. The Council will next investigate Lot 23 shuttle service. .

8. Senate President Collins provided the Student Affairs Council report. She indicated that the Senate's Student Book Award Essay Contest is proceeding. The University Senate sponsors this event and students are asked to write a short essay on the impact of a current international event on their MSU studies. The deadline for entries is the 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

9. Senator Benfield provided the NAL Report. He called attention to the recent memo sent by Dr. Wolfson, President of Local 1904, concerning the ownership and use of faculty developed on-line materials. He noted that local and statewide negotiations are scheduled. He concluded with a few remarks about Senator Sweeney's bill to alter public employee health care benefits, S2718.

10. The Senate became a Committee of the Whole at 16:08 and discussed the current draft of the university's new strategic plan for fifty minutes. The discussion was frank and open.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 16:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David Benfield

Recording Secretary