

- I. The April 29, 2015 meeting of the University Senate was **called to order** at 3:07 pm. (Collins)
- II. **Roll Call** - Present: Alvares, Benfield, Brook, Charlot, Chatterjee, Collins, Jerry Cutler, Jonathan Cutler, Fails, Fleming, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Kelton, Lal, Lucas, McCann, Mengara, Montesinos (rep), Murray, Oosting, Powell, Sadowsky, Salzman, Samuels, Specchio, Sullivan, Trubatch, and Wolfson.
- III. **Approval of March 25, 2015 minutes** –motion passed.
- IV. **Good News/Announcements**
  - a. Many important meetings were scheduled during this time, resulting in low attendance today.
  - b. Dr. Devon Johnson presented the last cross-disciplinary lunch on Monday on “Competitive Selling: Unintended effects of salesperson skepticism toward a more credible competing product.”
  - c. Faculty have raised concerns about the evaluation toolkit that has appeared through Canvas in some faculty members’ classes. Concerns should be directed to departments, since this is where the list came from. A discussion of electronic evaluations ensued. The issue of evaluations for faculty members is dealt with contractually, but there is no specific language in the adjunct contract. The broader issue is that the Senate recently passed a resolution regarding the insertion of material by the administration into Canvas courses, and these evaluations were placed in Canvas.
- V. **Elections Committee Report** – Jean Alvares
  - a. The constituency elections have concluded, and winners are in the process of being notified.
- VI. **Report from Administration** –Provost Gingerich – no report
- VII. **Academic Affairs Council Report** – (Cutler)
  - a. Kirk McDermid, chair of the Gen Ed committee, announced that the committee has recommended changes to Gen Ed category descriptions, which are viewable at [gened.referata.com](http://gened.referata.com). There is now a short description pitched to students, and a longer description for those teaching. These new descriptions are essential for assessment of Gen Ed, which is a critical component of the reaccreditation process. The Gen Ed committee is a Provost committee, but when it sent its recommendations to the provost, included is the recommendation that faculty consensus and endorsement be obtained.
  - b. Another Gen Ed issue is that many majors require specific non-Gen Ed courses in Gen Ed categories. If a student switches majors, that course no longer automatically fulfills the requirement; the student needs to get approval from the new major. The committee voted to include the majority of those exceptions into the Gen Ed which will give more control over those courses to ensure they are legitimately Gen Ed courses. Finally, the committee is proposing to redefine the “L” category as an interdisciplinary course.
  - c. Dr. Wolfson thanked Dr. McDermid for his hard work and for accommodating students with problems.
  - d. Concerns were raised that if these items are not put to a faculty-wide vote, it erodes the fact that faculty own the curriculum.
  - e. The Provost emphasized that at a minimum the proposals will require a presentation to the Senate. It is essential to bring the Gen Ed into an assessable form as Middlestates puts a strong emphasis on this for accreditation purposes. Changes also need to be made so that 160 versions of Gen Ed are not put into Banner.
- VIII. **Administrative Affairs Council Report** - (Kelton)
  - a. VP Fleming addressed concerns regarding reduction in 24 hour support for Canvas. She stated that Canvas support will be returning in house to people who will be able to address more than just

Canvas questions. OIT will be extending its helpdesk hours until midnight Sunday through Thursday and until 9 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Current hours are through 9 pm most days and closed on Sundays.

- b. Other senators mentioned the fact that we have students across multiple time zones and around the world, and that we will be expanding our online programs. VP Fleming acknowledged that support demands will continue to increase. Senator Kelton suggested an MSU chat line hosted during the off-hours and a possibly cheaper measure to provide more hours of support.
- c. The DVD sunset issue will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.
- d. Legal has developed a new field trip form. It is being reviewed and they will speak at the next meeting.
- e. A pedestrian crossing sign will be posted between the back and front Bond lots. Putting up lights is a more complex issue that is under discussion. Dangerous crossings at Panzer and the train station will be brought to Roger Solomon's attention, as will missing tiles/cobblestones across campus.

IX. **Student Affairs Council Report** – (Allen) – No report

X. **NAL Report** (Benfield)

- a. Some union members volunteered at a food bank
- b. Senator Benfield will be leaving at the end of the year. He has enjoyed the job and it has been an honor to serve.
- c. Statewide negotiations will be beginning soon and preparations are underway.
- d. The 8% increase for Rutgers faculty is a complicated, 4 year deal. They do not negotiate with the state in the same manner as MSU.

XI. **Constitution Committee Report** (Mengara) – Motion to Amend the 1995 Constitution – Third Reading

- a. Senator Mengara distributed a guide of proposed amendments reorganized into substantive and subsidiary amendments. It was a summary of previous discussions, but caused some confusion.
- b. Questions were still raised as to the process of how motions and amendments will be voted on.
- c. A request was made to receive formal motions that include the formal changes in the text and where they are located.
- d. President Collins stated that today's discussion counted as a third reading and the process of voting can begin at the May 13 meeting, which will begin at 2:00.

XII. **New Business**

- a. Three nominations were made for the Honorary degree committee: Senators Alvares, Kelton, and Gardin
- b. Issues from Campus Senators - None
- c. Voices from Campus Community – The adjunct union held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual awards dinner last week, honoring 7 adjuncts, nearly all of whom have served here for over 20 years.

XIII. **Meeting Adjourned at 4:43 p.m.**

Minutes Approved May 13, 2015

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary