

I. The April 30, 2014 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:12 pm. (S. Collins)

II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Allen, Benfield, Bonato, Chapel, Collins, Jerry Cutler, Jonathan Cutler, Davis, Gaynor, Gingerich, Howell, Hunt, Kelshaw, Kelton, Lakusta, Lin, McCann, Mengara, Morrissey (Cottrell), Murray, Nurse, Peterman, Prezant (Jaber), Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Wilson, and Wolfson.

III. Approval of March 26, 2014 minutes – no quorum

IV. Good News/ Announcements

- 1) President Collins was invited by William Paterson's University Senate to attend a conference on academic success there on May 16.
- 2) Thanks to Senator Sullivan and Richard Wolfson who forwarded links to NJ lawmakers' 20 bill package to overhaul college costs. President Collins accepts the invitation to form a joint senate/AFT committee to look at the issue.
- 3) There will be another election for the faculty rep to the board of trustees as the first person who ran was ineligible to accept the role
- 4) We are looking for a 1 year replacement for a Senate rep to the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
- 5) An email went out from the library informing the campus community that they will be transitioning to a friendlier, more powerful catalog, the OCLC, which is well-known and includes social networking tools, a mobile app, and the ability to create citations. Please return as many books as possible so records can be switched over.

V. Elections Committee Report - no report

VI. Representative to BOT Report – no report

VII. Report from Administration – Provost Gingerich

- 1) All convocations will be taking place at Sprague. Graduates will be seated on the field and the stands will be reserved for guests. All awardees have accepted. Petra Knox is doing an extraordinary job.
- 2) An updated draft of the Social Media Policy was distributed. The provost believes it addresses the issues raised by the Senate and Chairs Council. Now legal questions are being sorted out. A final draft will be available before the end of the semester. Please send commentaries directly to the provost, copying Senators Kelton and Collins. The Senate will likely get to see the final draft before it goes live, but even the final draft is not set in stone.
- 3) It is crucial to prepare for the transition to Canvas as Blackboard will be gone at the end of August. The trainers are extremely accommodating and the system is much more user-friendly.
 - a. Richard Wolfson asked about whether Canvas is able to data mine everything, and if so if IRB has vetted the process. Vice President Chapel responded that this is the case for both Blackboard and Canvas. Data is mined to generate improvements. Associate Provost Bonato stated that IRB will not use Canvas as a data management tool. The Provost stated that if there is an IRB issue it is something the entire industry will need to pay attention to.
 - b. Senator Benfield asked if there could be a Blackboard to Canvas transition glossary since some terms in Canvas are a bit arcane. The provost stated this is a good argument to get trained and familiarize yourself now with Canvas.

VIII. Academic Affairs Council Report – (Cutler) – The council will be meeting tomorrow to start the discussion of the rights and responsibilities portion of the student handbook.

IX. Administrative Affairs Council Report (Kelton) – Senator Kelton stated he was impressed with the revision of the Social Media Policy and has sent it to the council for feedback.

X. Student Affairs Council Report - (Allen) – The names for the student book award have been sent to Dr. Pennington. She will assess their financial need and a winner will be announced at the next meeting..

XI. NAL Report (Benfield)

- 1) A union election is ongoing. Please vote if you are eligible.
- 2) At the 2014 AFT National Higher Education Issues Conference a lot of good research was presented, and there was a strong concern that there are too many contingent faculty and that they are not being treated well.
- 3) The local will start negotiations shortly.

XII. Unfinished Business

- 1) Update: Campus Tobacco Policy Task Force – Senator Sullivan gave the report due to Senator Gardin's illness. The task force recently held its 10th meeting. The chair has put out a draft report for feedback. The committee is recommending that smoking be banned on campus. The Senate will discuss the recommendation at the next meeting and will receive a copy of the recommendation prior to the meeting. A question was raised whether Montclair State is on state property and if it is legal for the university to forbid smoking on state property. Senator Sullivan was unsure, but pointed out that a number of state universities have instituted this policy. Senator Benfield asked if anyone with legal knowledge about this process would be present at the next senate meeting for the discussion of the recommendation. Senator Collins stated that the task force has already done fact-finding and had an advertised open hearing.

XIII. New Business

- 1) Nomination/Appointment of Senate Representative to Safety Committee – Roger Solomon will be asked to continue in this role since no one present requested a nomination. Richard Wolfson requested a report from the Safety Committee to the Senate.
- 2) Nominations for the Honorary Degree Committee – Senators Allen, Kelton and Lin were nominated
- 3) Issues from Campus Senators –
 - a. CSAM Associate Dean Jaber announced that Eric Green, Director of the Human Genome Project with the NIH would be the Sokol Speaker on May 1. She also announced that the 8th Annual Student Research Symposium was a great success with over 400 attendees and 120 poster presentations.
 - b. Safety concerns were expressed about crossing the street from Panzer to Cali – there is no crosswalk. There is also no good way to cross from the Montclair Heights train station onto campus.
- 4) Voices from Campus Community – A question was raised as to why there was no distinguished teacher awardee this year. The provost stated that this was publicized and recruited but no candidate came forward. Richard Wolfson stated that one faculty member applied two years in a row and did not win, so did not apply this year. Hearing there were no candidates this year is a bit disheartening.

XIV. Adjournment at 3:54

Minutes Approved September 2, 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary