

- I. The December 17, 2014 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:13 pm. (Collins)
- II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Charlot, Collins, Jerry Cutler, Fails, Ficke, Gainor, Gardin, Gaynor, Giacobbe, Gill, Gingerich, Gurskis, Hollister(representative), Lal, Lucas, McCann, Mengara, Montesinos (Cottrell), Murray, Oosting, Pennington, Powell, Prezant, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Trubatch, Wilson, and Wolfson.
- III. Approval of November 19, 2014 minutes – Motion by Alvares, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mengara, motion passed with 3 abstentions.
- IV. Good News/Announcements
  - a. We welcome Glen Gill's daughter Fiona, born November 28.
  - b. The cross-disciplinary luncheons are going well. Remaining dates are January 26, February 9, March 23 and April 6. Speak with President Collins if you would like to present in January or February.
  - c. Happy Saturnalia from Jean Alvares!
- V. Petitions for Agenda Items
  - a. According to the Constitution "a petition of 5 senators or 5% of the faculty shall be sufficient to place a matter on the agenda of the University Senate or specified Committee." One petition, to add to the agenda a motion to include the president of the adjunct union as a non-voting member of the Senate, was received at the end of the October meeting and the text was included in the October minutes. This petition was signed by Senators Gaynor, Ambrose, Gardin, Samuels, and Sullivan. The President referred this item to the Constitution Committee and they addressed it in the proposed updates to the Constitution.
  - b. The second petition, to add to the agenda a motion for an amendment to the Constitution on term limits for the eboard, was signed by Senators Brook, Gaynor, Gardin, Samuels, and Sullivan. The President referred this item to the Constitution Committee for swift deliberation and feedback.
  - c. Debate ensued as to when a petition is placed on the agenda vs sent to committee and whether it is possible for the petitioners to determine where the item is placed. Senator Mengara stated that an item such as a proposed constitutional amendment would need to go to the constitution committee, whereas items not requiring committee work can be placed directly on the agenda. When items are sent to committee, the committee has an obligation to report back to the Senate.
- VI. Report from Administration – Provost Gingerich
  - a. The provost is very impressed by the new faculty program, which is in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year. He had an interesting conversation with new faculty about multidisciplinary.
  - b. Winter session enrollments are ahead of last year's and graduate winter enrollment is up 30%.
  - c. We are very close to the conclusion of the Dean searches for CHSS and SBUS, and the search for Executive Director of Extended Learning is moving forward, with over 75 applications received.
  - d. The provost's office has identified a few faculty who have not responded with the data needed for financial aid verification and they will be contacted individually. The process will be conducted differently this spring. OIT has developed a new web application where faculty can log in, select their entire class roster, and uncheck the students who have not attended. Jim Anderson requested that this be completed by the end of drop/add. This new system places the onus of reporting on faculty, but eliminates the necessity of intrusion into classes via Canvas. The provost will provide a complete update on the process at the next Senate meeting.
  - e. Online descriptions of academic policies are not in good shape. The provost would like to put existing policy together in one single clear statement that other websites can link to. One policy he would particularly like to look at is how often students are permitted to repeat courses they earned Ds or Fs in. Joanne Cote-Bonanno, Allyson Straker-Banks, Denise DeBlasio, and the new university webmaster will be working on this project. Senator Trubatch noted that this problem is twofold: one of policy maintenance and one of website maintenance. The people in charge of each need to be talking to one another. Senator Sullivan noted that the academic affairs council has worked on academic policy for many years and encouraged the provost to bring items in conflict to the council.
  - f. Departments wishing to update semester course offerings on their websites can link directly to the schedule on WESS. The provost has authorized every college to have its own web content manager.

- g. Senator Wolfson requested clarification on how policies are generated. The provost discussed the mechanism that took place to develop the 8 new policies that were approved 18 months ago. He stated the policies start with the institution and evolve. A retention committee of faculty and administrators worked on developing the policies, they went through several drafts and were seen by the committee the dean's council and the University Senate. Enforcing some of the policies is challenging.
- h. President Collins charged the academic affairs council with reviewing academic dishonesty. A question was raised as to what kind of data Turnitin.com is allowed access to and how they are able to use the data. The provost stated that their renewed contract was approved and he will look into this question.
- VII. Academic Affairs Council Report - no report
- VIII. Administrative Affairs Council Report
  - a. Chief Cell and new Director of Emergency Management, Matt Gallup, reported on the new emergency plan that is in development and is currently under review. In the new year, there will be an online training on Canvas for faculty, staff, and students. Once people are more informed, there will be emergency drills. The campus will be informed when a drill is taking place. The CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) will be revived. This opportunity is open to anyone. Campus police has partnered with Homeland Security and will be the first police department in the country to have FirstNet, a nationwide high-speed network devoted to public safety. This puts MSU in the national spotlight.
  - b. It was asked how to deal with students of concern in class. In an emergency, we should call x4111(the campus emergency line) x5222 (campus police) or 911. For non-emergent situations, we should contact the Dean of Students.
  - c. The emergency plan contains evacuation procedures, which allows for reversing traffic on certain roads and encouraging most people to exit on foot. Reunification locations will also be developed.
- IX. Student Affairs Council Report – No report
- X. NAL Report (Benfield)
  - a. The union will begin local negotiations with Jerry Cutler in January and is looking forward to productive sessions
  - b. You are invited to help work the January 13 pizza luncheon for students staying on campus over break in Machuga's multi-purpose room.
- XI. Constitution Committee Report (Mengara) – Motion to Amend the 1995 Constitution – First Reading
  - a. Senator Mengara apologized that the wrong file was emailed to the Senate. The document with tracked changes was what was supposed to be sent.
  - b. The list of motions distributed at the meeting contains a 7<sup>th</sup> motion that was not distributed via email.
  - c. Discussions of shared governance should be reserved for new business.
  - d. A lengthy conversation ensued trying to clarify the process by which the Senate would be acting.
  - e. Senator Sullivan made a motion that the Senate hold 3 readings. The first reading will occur after the Senate has received a copy of the Constitution with tracked changes. On the third reading, the Senate will vote. A 2/3 majority vote is required to pass a motion. Each section of each motion will be voted on separately. Senator Alvares seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - f. If senators wish to make changes or additions to the motions, they may propose friendly amendments.
  - g. Senator Sullivan made a motion that for voting purposes, a 2/3 majority is 2/3 of present voting members, provided we have a quorum. With a present quorum of 19, this would mean 13 in favor. There was no quorum to vote on this motion.
  - h. President Collins apologized for sending the wrong draft and will send the correct one out before the next meeting, which will be the first reading.
- XII. New Business
  - a. Issues from Campus Senators
    - i. Senator Wolfson requested that the eboard look at starting Senate meetings at 2:30 rather than 3:00. President Collins denied the request.
  - b. Voices from Campus Community - none
- XIII. Meeting Adjourned at 4:56 p.m.