

The February 15, 2012 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:09 by Senate President Sandra Collins.

- I. Roll Call: Recording Secretary Kathy Sadowsky called the roll. Present at the meeting were the following members: Adarkar, Allen, Alvares, Benfield, Chang, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Ada Beth Cutler, Jonathan Cutler, Dickenson, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Howell, Kelshaw, Lakusta, Lal, Lemesianou, Lin, Mahadevan, Meneghin, Morrissey(Cottrell), Newman (Sharps), Nurse, Oluwole, Oosting, Pardo, Poon, Powell, Sadowsky, Sullivan, Topic, Wilson, Wolfson, and Zamanian
- II. Approval of January 18, 2012 Minutes – Approved
- III. Good News/Announcements
 - a. Senator Collins attended the Unity Rally and read the University statement on civility and attended a town meeting that took place later that week. Local AFT has recommended that the Senate consider a teach-in.
 - b. Cross-disciplinary discourses will pick up later this semester.
 - c. Dr. Ana Maria Villegas, professor of Curriculum and Teaching, has been named a 2012 American Educational Research Association Fellow.
 - d. Music professor Robert Aldridge received 2 Grammys for his opera *Elmer Gantry*.
 - e. New director of research and sponsored programs – Frederic Russo
- IV. Elections Committee Report – Jean Alvares
 - a. Elections were supposed to occur this week, but we still need people to run. There is still one at-large position available. It is possible to run for this seat in place of a constituency seat.
- V. Faculty Representative to BOT Report – No one present to provide this report. Nominations are open for the upcoming faculty rep to BOT election.
- VI. Report from Administration - Provost Gingerich
 - a. We are in the last round of finalists for the CART Dean. Please make every effort to attend the open events with the candidates. We get important feedback and the candidate goes away with an impression of the institution and what we represent. We are about to begin seeing the first round of finalists for the dean search in CEHS. We have seen a few finalists for the associate provost position, and one to two more will be visiting.
 - b. We just launched a search for the Director of the new School of Communication and Media. The school comes into formal existence on July 1.
 - c. The new director of ORSP has been here 2 weeks and has already shown that if we calculated our federal overhead differently, we could be receiving more money on certain grants.
 - d. Building plans continue. We have occupied Schmitt Hall (formerly Finley, the building was renamed because a language alumnus donated to the project). An invitation to a public event cosponsored by the deans of CSAM and CHSS will be forthcoming. A lounge in Schmitt has been named in honor of a beloved former Spanish professor. The departments of Modern Languages, Spanish and Italian, and Linguistics are located there, as well as the Math Emporium which is in operation. We are the talk of NJ for our experiments in math pedagogy. 350 students are being educated there this spring, but starting in fall there will be 2000 students going through. 5 existing courses will be taught there with state of the art technology. April 19 is the ribbon cutting.

- e. Plans are moving forward for the SBUS building. We are seriously looking at space in the Overlook Building on Clove Road. This first-class executive building may provide even more space than the designed SBUS building. There would be regular shuttle service to this building and we are also looking into cutting a road along the ridge. The road would be one-way and would only be used as an exit from campus in emergencies. If we do arrange to be a tenant in the building, the agreement we make would be for long enough so that it would work for everyone involved.
- f. Dean Chrite – Montclair became an affiliate member of the NY stock analyst association, a major finance organization. We entered the competition with 23 institutions and with a team of primarily undergraduates made the final 4 with Dartmouth, Fairfield and Rutgers. The final competition is tomorrow.
- g. We hope to launch the three online programs we've been working on in September on our own without the help of high-priced consultants. The three programs are master's degrees in Educational Leadership, Arts Management, and Child Advocacy. Computer science is interested but the courses aren't developed yet. Psychology is talking about an online undergraduate program, but then we would also need online gen eds.
- h. With regards to the UMDNJ/Rowan reorganization, we cannot influence it very much. This is a political power shift to South Jersey. The biggest concern is that already limited funding will be directed to the reorganization. The president is watching carefully to get our bid in for our fair share of state funding.

VII. Academic Affairs Council Report – Jason Dickinson

- a. On January 25 the Council met to generate a recommendation regarding the Interdisciplinary Core of Gen Ed. The Council made the following recommendations which were brought to the Senate for discussion and a vote:
 - i. The council recommends the indefinite suspension of the Interdisciplinary Core from Gen Ed with the stipulation that the courses covered under this category will remain in the course catalog and may be taught by faculty who are willing to do so, with the same benefits to faculty (e.g. release time) stipulated under the current contract.
 - ii. The council recommends that, prior to an action to indefinitely suspend the Interdisciplinary Core, it first be submitted to a campus-wide vote of full-time faculty for the administration's consideration.
 - iii. The council recommends that, should the Interdisciplinary core be indefinitely suspended (or otherwise eliminated), the corresponding six credits be moved to Category L of Gen Ed (free elective category).
 - iv. The council recommends that the University hold a campus-wide discussion regarding the current and future structure and implementation of Gen Ed. The Interdisciplinary Core should be one focus of this discussion.
- b. The Senate discussed and voted on each recommendation separately.
- c. After much discussion, the first amendment was adjusted to read: **“Effective Fall 2012 for all catalogs, the Council recommends the indefinite suspension of the Interdisciplinary Core requirement from Gen Ed with the stipulation that courses covered under this category will remain in the course catalog and may be taught by faculty who are willing to do so, with the same benefits to faculty (e.g., release time) stipulated under the current contract.”** This resolution passed with 22 in favor, one opposed and two abstentions.
- d. After discussion about the education that would be required prior to a faculty vote and the issue of timeliness of having a decision made, the second recommendation passed with 21 in favor, two opposed and 3 abstentions.

- e. After reassurance from the Provost that any proposals from departments to absorb the six credits into a major requirement would be carefully scrutinized and would need a strong justification, the Senate voted to eliminate the third recommendation from the proposal, with 17 opposed to the recommendation and 7 abstentions. This recommendation was not necessary because the six credits will be absorbed into general free electives and will not be part of the L elective general education category.
- f. The fourth resolution was adjusted to remove the final sentence and read, “The council recommends that the University hold a **subsequent** campus-wide discussion regarding the current and future structure and implementation of Gen Ed.” The recommendation passed with 24 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

VIII. Administrative Affairs Council Report – Milos Topic – nothing to report

IX. Student Affairs Council Report – Michael Allen – nothing to report

X. NAL Report –David Benfield – We should look at Richard Wolfson’s essay on NJ politics and future of Gen Ed on the union website

XI. New Business

- a. Issues from Campus (CART, CEHS, CHSS, CSAM, SBUS, Librarians, Prof. Staff, At-Large) - none

XII. Adjournment at 5:01 pm.

Minutes Approved March 28, 2012

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary