

I. The February 19, 2014 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:09 pm. (S. Collins)

II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Chapel, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Davis, Fails, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Grinberg, Gurskis, Kelshaw, Kelton, Lakusta, Lal, McCann, Mengara, Murray, Nurse, Pardo, Pennington, Peterman (Jenkins), Poon, Powell, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, and Wolfson (representative).

III. Approval of November 20, 2013 and December 18, 2013 and January 22, 2014 minutes – approved.

IV. Good News/ Announcements

- 1) A moment of silence was observed to acknowledge the passing of John Cali

V. Elections Committee Report (Alvares) – The at-large election is taking place with the new EVS system. This caused some confusion due to the email that was sent. The election will close on February 21.

VI. Faculty Representative to Board of Trustees Report - No report

VII. Report from Administration (Provost Gingerich)

- 1) Montclair received ratings for credit-worthiness of A1 by Moody's and AA by Fitch, both with stable outlook. This rating is better than New Jersey's. Moody's gave us a commendation.
- 2) The Dominican Republic is dedicating 4% of its annual GDP to education, technology and STEM education. Montclair will be a part of the training process for STEM education.
- 3) The provost has been in touch with the registrar to look at how we can recover some instructional time lost due to the snow days. This is a great chance to look at online opportunities. We don't anticipate closing for the rest of the semester. The provost appreciates the resourcefulness and inventiveness of the many people who made efforts to help their classes meet and make up the lost time.
- 4) There is a new research misconduct policy posted on the OSRP website. This update was based on a number of institutions' policies and was required to stay in compliance and maintain eligibility for federal research funds.
- 5) Dr. Chapel reported on the ongoing switch from Blackboard to Canvas. The switch will be complete in Fall 2014 and we already have 500 courses being taught using campus. We are behind schedule in having faculty being prepared. A lot of training is available, including self-paced online instructional materials. We'll engage more directly with the provost, deans and chairs to track training and ensure readiness for everyone. We will offer training for departments, one-on-one and scheduled trainings. We are figuring out the transition of Turn-It In and 18 months of archived Blackboard courses. The provost stated that so far students have stated they are delighted with Canvas.
- 6) A question was asked regarding emails sent to faculty and students implying that students should ascertain road conditions before deciding to come to campus on snowy days but faculty should hold class. The provost stated that the email meant faculty cannot make arbitrary decisions to cancel classes and if faculty decide it is hazardous to come to campus they need to inform their students and departments that they won't be there.

VII. Academic Affairs Council Report – (Cutler)

- 1) Change in Undergraduate Course Proposal Form – the new online form has a new section named "course requirements" which must include how the grade is calculated. This is a concern since different instructors may teach the course differently and this may be a violation to academic freedom. The council is discussing it, and there are no conclusions yet. Please let Senator Cutler know your comments. Dr. Cote-Bonanno stated that the form was looking for what was expected by the developer of the course at the time. She is happy to discuss it further so it can be clarified. Senator Cutler formally invited Dr. Cote-Bonanno to the academic affairs council meeting.

VII. Administrative Affairs Council Report (Kelton)

- 1) Committee of the Whole Discussion on Proposed Social Media Policy – the Administrative Affairs Council will generate a report for the Senate and Provost taking today's comments into account. The Provost addressed concerns about first amendment rights stating that the administration defends faculty vigorously and values intellectual freedom. Vice President Chapel stated the policy flows from the

general purpose and intent of the overall guidelines for responsible use. The intent is to provide the freedoms of expression referenced but to be definitive to disclaim when people are talking on behalf of themselves vs on behalf of the University. Dr. Pennington highlighted the need for individuals to place a clear line between what they do personally and professionally.

- a. There was a general concern over the “no expectation of privacy” clause. This has the potential to interfere with confidential research and deals with information on devices, which is not related to social media. The policy does not clarify who in the university has authority to examine the devices. There should be a mechanism by which a state institution has to show there is a reasonable purpose for search so that people can feel secure. “Work product” is not defined which can be disconcerting for people whose work goes on outside the office. Vice President Chapel responded that the acceptable use policy has some mitigating language and statements regarding privacy. There is no intent in the policy to invade privacy; the intent to protect the university’s interest, avoid liability and make clear that as necessity arises, within the parameters of the law, the university will exercise its right to access materials when problematic things are happening.

- 2) The institutional repository task force is almost fully staffed and will be charged shortly. Mary Mallory is convening the opening meeting on Monday.

VIII. Student Affairs Council Report - (Allen) – The Senate Book Award essay topic is about Nelson Mandela

IX. NAL Report (Benfield)

- 1) The union was very involved in the development of a new tenure law that applies to new hires as of next year. Union dues hired a lobbyist to help perfect it.
- 2) We have one year remaining on this contract and negotiations will be starting shortly on the next one.

X. Constitution Committee (Mengara)

- 1) The committee is made up of Senators Rubin, Kelshaw, Chatterjee and Charlot. We are still working on questions of representation. We are conducting an overhaul of the constitution which my take until Fall 2014. We are looking to establish bylaws to supplement the constitution. The “Voices from the campus” agenda item is an interim measure until representation is formalized.

XI. New Business

- 1) Voices from Senators:

- a. The administrative affairs council was asked to look into charging stations for electric vehicles on campus
- b. The council was also asked to look into the circuitous route required to access Lot 17 and the reason for 4 spots for medical personnel in lot 20.
- c. The psychology department is experiencing having to complete a lot of paperwork since some undeclared students about to reach 60 credits are directed there to declare a major while they wait to be eligible for their major of choice. Is there a more efficient way to manage this?

- 2) Voices from Campus Community

- a. Bob Noonan, president of the adjunct union, stated that that union signed its own local agreement with the administration and now adjuncts can park in the same lots as full time faculty. He asked the senate to look into adjunct orientation and an adjunct handbook. The faculty handbook is not adequate for adjunct needs. President Collins noted that many of these issues should be handled at the department level but that deans and chairs do need to get this information to adjuncts.

XI. Adjournment at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved March 26, 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary