

Minutes for January 23, 2013

1. Meeting of the University Senate called to order in SC 419 at 3:09pm (S. Collins)
2. Roll Call (Davis)

Present: Allen, Alvares, Benfield, Chang, Chapel, Chatterjee, Collins (president), Cutler, Davis, Das, Dickinson, Ficke, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Gurskis, Hain, Kelshaw, Lakusta, Lal, Lin, McCann, Morrissey, Nurse, Oluwole, Oosting, Pardo, Pennington, Peterman, Poon, Powell, Prezant, Rodak, Sullivan, Wilson, Wolfson

Absent: Ambrose, Chrite, Gill, Howell, Hunt, Juzdan, Mahadevan, Meneghin, Mengara (vice president), Rubin, Sadowsky (secretary), Specchio, Wilson, Yu, Zamanian

3. Motion
 - To approve minutes of December 19, 2012 moved by Sullivan, 2nd Kelshaw
4. President's Report and Good News (Collins)
 - Reminder that the next Senate cross-disciplinary series is scheduled for 2/1, 12-1:30pm in Ballroom C. The title of Dr. Diana Thomas' (CSAM) presentation is, "Does exercise lead to fattening?"
 - Election Committee (Alvares)—posted call for nominations for senators-at-large; people unsuccessful obtaining at-large seat might consider running for constituent position; contact Betsy Lin or Jean Alvarez to nominate self or someone else; will send call for constituency
5. Academic Affairs Council—none
6. Administrative Affairs Council--Oluwole
 - notified Director of Parking Services about speed bump concerns regarding size and purpose; depending upon the speed of car travel some are experiencing auto suspension damage; since last fall there's been a problem with transponder readers; learned that cars bunching at exist disrupts the reader;
 - Nurse—had unpleasant discussion with Director of Parking Services and initially told speed bumps were installed as a safety measure, then told installations were connected to expense of repairing/replacing exit arm; told 4K to repair; there is variance among speed bump size, height, etc.
7. Report from the Administration—Gingerich
 - Introduced Frederick Bonato, new Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; AVPAA Bonato joins MSU from St. Peter's College, NJ and has a research background in motion sickness
 - Mook and online conversations continue to flourish and fester;
 - MSU is a land grant institution and its affiliation with Association of Public Land Grant has enabled MSU to respond to a US State Department initiative in collaboration with Gates Foundation; MSU is participating in a consortium to develop and process online and hybrid courses across campus; MSU has launched a new **experience** course in conjunction with US Department of State Department and international political organizations; the course is a senior seminar 400 level that will be taught live, synchronous with an institution in Turkey using a tool similar to Skype allowing both groups to see and interact with each other; MSU is the only institution in the country participating in this State Department initiative; Thanks to Gregory

- Shtraka for making the initial contact. Professor Zsolt Nyiri, who is Hungarian, will teach the weekly class meetings; Students are receiving credit, no money, for taking the course
- Benfield—asked about Provost Gingerich’s recent Mook course experience to which Gingerich replied did not complete the higher level course; noted the level of discourse, that student participation is uneven, that students ,ay go back and review videos and other course content because information is archived allowing for revisits; people in the course remain in contact with each other
8. Student Affairs Council—no report; will contact council members for upcoming meeting; Dr. Terry, AVP of Enrollment and Student Academic Services will provide update
- Terry—proud of spring progress; large number of students graduated last year which reduced number of people in the pipeline; up 18 students over this time last year; goals for next year are set and Department will return to same thing from last year to show Dept does follow-up
 - Kasper—(Director of UG Admissions)—anticipate about a 25% increase, or 2200-2800 for fall 2013; enrollment for sp 2013, usually 650-700 in spring, this year at 811, transfers usually 40, top transfers from community colleges are: Bergen, Essex, Passaic, Morris, Brookdale; enrollment as of today total=17,413; UG=13,705; G=3708; 120 over at same time last year, on second day of classes; 162 lower overall on the 10th day of classes; we expect to be @ last year’s enrollment if not over, 27% increase in new freshmen, up10% over last 15 years; **acceptances are up about 85% because of early notification process**; 2,000 applicants were notified before Christmas, all acceptances were made by February 1; increase due in part to use of rolling admission to lessen potentially additional burdens in wake of Hurricane Sandy and other societal occurrences; slightly ahead of 70%; goal is bigger—to get 2,800 rather than 2,300; up in diversity by 20% for African Americans, 21% for Latinos, and up 10% for Asian 20%; 4/14 is student accepted day; will make or break a student’s commitment to attend
 - Terry—worked with Center for Academic Development and Assessment to created Student Athlete Academic Power Series modeled after Division I requirement for all student athletes to attend tutoring and group study time; MSU SAAPS is to encourage positive attitude toward studying; the 7 sessions occurred at various places around campus; began with 69 students, FA 2012, after Power Series, 17 placed in academic probation with 16 of the 17 subsequently failing because of no follow through;
 - Set a 25% enrollment increase moving forward, intended to add the 300 students needed to keep MSU on track to meet 2016 goal of 15K UG, 5 grad; the speed of graduation allows for such goals; winter sessions are popular as were summer sessions up to two years ago when financial aid was available; moving forward we may want to highlight winter **enrollment or programs**
9. NAL Report
- Good news: **SW service workers** contract available on union website; nine sabbaticals awarded spring 2013; career development grants to be announced; Controversial news: clarifying the meaning of essential personnel for driving purposes, **social employee**, class size capacity for TCH
10. Unfinished Business
- Suspension of Blackboard access to students with outstanding balances <\$2,000
 - Gingerich—message from faculty that they need earlier and more specific notification; Administration is trying to standardize that; to that end 1/7 payments due, 2/1 outstanding balances assessed \$25 late fee, 2/20 notice to instructors that in 5 days, BB access will be denied to students with outstanding balances, 2/25 BB access, transcript holds occur, 3/4 students with unpaid balances dropped from registration; students will be dropped before spring break; policy is designed to capture folks not working with financial aid office to pay bill
 - Comments arose pertaining to role of instructors’ support to students without BB access; that various faculty will do different things; that some students may need time to gather money; Gingerich—we will need to put together contingency policies

- Benefield—do we want to discourage students? Working with students without BB access is asking faculty to do a lot
 - Peterman—faculty have expressed concern about the impact on them when students are removed from BB; BB is an instructional tool
 - Dickinson—raised in November; let students know it's at the professor's discretion to meet students' needs when they lose BB access;
 - Adjunct rep--what difference will one week make between 2/25 and 3/4?;
 - Oluwole—why not have 3/4 as the final drop date and that's it?
 - Gardin—seems like a complicated solution: why not hold grade until the end of the course, if balance isn't paid then don't issue the grade
 - Pennington—two things 1) we'll need to consider other ideas about bill collection, 2) 200 people paid the \$2,000 which is a good chunk of money which is what this is all about
 - Gingerich—if we want to proceed we will with a written policy
 - Collins—why would faculty go beyond MSU policy? Notification of denial of BB access should not fall on faculty
 - Gingerich—expect to hear from Terry and Gingerich; assume that the existing policy will prevail
11. New Business
- Pardo, Allen, and Alvarez agreed to serve on honorary degree committee
12. Issues from Campus--none
- Meneghin—on behalf of professional staff want say thanks to those who organized holiday party for staff
13. Moved to adjourn at 4:47 by Alvarez, 2nd Kelshaw

Next Meeting: February 20, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,
 Danné E. Davis
 2/1/13