

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE of *Montclair State University*

Montclair, NJ 07043

1. The March 23, 2011 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Senate President Dr. Sandra Collins.
2. Recording Secretary Dr. David Benfield called the roll. Present at the meeting were the following members: Alvares, Benfield, Chang, Chapel, Chatterjee, Collins, Cutler J, Dickinson, Gardin, Gill, Gingerich, Lakusta, Mahadevan, Meneghin, Morrissey, Nurse, Oluwole, Oosting, Pardo, Pennington, Poon, Powell, Roberts, Rodak, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Topic, Wilson, & Wolfson.
3. The minutes of the February 16, 2001 meeting were approved with 2 abstentions.
4. Senate President Collins shared various items of good news. President Collins also warned faculty members about e-mail messages from individuals seeking to buy examination copies of textbooks.
4. Senator Alvares provided the Elections Committee report: There are 2 vacancies in the CEHS and 2 in the SBUS. Nominations have been extended until 4/4. The election will held 7-11 of April.
5. Provost Gingerich provided the Report from the Administration. Conversations about GenEd have been occurring. By the end of all the conversations, it is hoped that new directions for the GenEd will emerge. Instructors interested in teaching either GNED 202 or GNED 303 are in short supply. The Provost invited faculty members to consider teaching one of them.

A draft of the new strategic plan is being vetted and will shortly be circulated privately in its initial form. MSU now owns the Ward Trucking company lot and soon will have 1,000 new parking spaces. The purchase also included a large aircraft hangar style building. Senator Wolfson asked whether the final price was around the \$15 million figure that was approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Provost then explained the absence of several administrators from the Senate by citing two conflicting events that they were officiating at. He also noted that on Monday April 18th university authors will be honored at a reception in the Reading Room of Sprague Library.

Senate President Collins pointed out that an additional meeting of the CHSS is planned for the discussion the GenEd 2002. Senator Sullivan suggested that soil samples should be taken at the Ward Trucking Company lot before it is utilized for university parking. Provost Gingerich responded with the assurance that a thorough environmental analysis of the soil and other conditions was undertaken prior to the purchase.

Senator Sullivan inquired as to who will be teaching online-only courses. The Provost explained that initially regular full-time faculty will be the instructors. Instructional technology and other experts will be hired from the outside to assist in the developing of these courses.

Senator Oluwole offered kudos to Dean Chrite and Associate Dean O'Halloran for the very successful marketing of his department's recent Graduate Open House.

Senator Wolfson inquired as to whether the university has developed a satisfactory policy on the Intellectual Property issues associated with online only courses. The Provost said the such a policy is in later development stages. Senator Specchio asked whether online-only MSU degrees will indicate their online nature? The Provost indicated that the university intends to pursue a niche in the online market based on the excellence of its online courses. The online courses will be fully equivalent to regular courses.

The Provost noted that the policy of getting one credit for teaching a new online course is still in place.

Mr. Noonan, Secretary of the Adjunct Union, inquired as to whether adjunct faculty could also be compensated for developing an online-only course. He also asked whether an online-only course developer would be allowed to continue teaching the developed course. The Provost had a conflicting event to attend and this concluded his presentation.

6. Senator Dickinson reminded everyone that the next GenEd 2002 discussion is set for the CSAM meeting on March 30th. He then introduced two motions concerning the Academic Computing Committee. Senator Dickinson proposed both motions and Senator Sullivan seconded them. A brief discussion of the first motion occurred concerning whether or not under the new Proposed Charge to the Academic Technology Committee would bring photocopying under its purview. Drafter of the motion Michael Heller said that it would not.

Motion 1 passed 18 – 0. Motion 2 dealt with the definition of course types. A brief discussion of how better to state the definition of a “synchronous” course took place. It was suggested that the Senate pass the motion with the instruction that the Senate Academic Affairs Council adjust the language to clarify the phrase “simultaneously via the Internet.” Senator Wolfson (ex officio) noted that whether a course is designated as purely “online” determines whether or not a faculty member is paid to develop it.

Motion 2 passed 16 -- 0

7. The Administrative Affairs Council report was provided by Senator Topic. He began by extending high praise to the central OIT unit for its new application that runs on mobile phones and that shows MSU campus computer lab availability. Senator Wilson and Topic met with Tim Carey concerning whether Lot 26 is being used appropriately? Mr. Carey admits that the lot is not fully utilized and its usage will be re-visited in the summer. It is possible that Lot 26 will become a faculty lot in the Fall of 2011.

Adjunct Local Secretary Noonan asserted that adjunct employment at the university is nearly 900 and that it dropped off only slightly in the Spring of 2011. Senator Topic thanked the adjunct union representative and promised to share his concerns. Senator Wilson pointed out that faculty are eligible to purchase a CarParc Diem hangtag.

Senator Topic indicated that construction of the new building for the SBUS will begin during the Summer and that this will mean the end of the highly popular Lot T-1. He also noted that MSU vans pay for parking in the Red Hawk Deck except during snow clearing operations. Also, the lights illuminating the path from Sprague Library and Morehead to College Hall have been repaired.

Normal Avenue is an Essex County road and consequently alterations to its lights are at the discretion of the county. However, the Normal Avenue crossing lighting can be improved somewhat by alterations to the lights on MSU property.

Senator Sullivan pointed out that strict enforcement of the pedestrian crossing law might help. This option has been explored with Campus Police Captain Lyons and currently the Department could not staff a serious undercover pedestrian crossing operation such as the Township of Montclair sets up. .

8. Senator Oosting provided the Student Affairs Council report. The Council's smoking policy motion is under reconsideration. Senator Oluwole has been assisting by looking at the legal issues involved.

9. NAL Representative Benfield reported that Union Local President Wolfson testified at the Budget Committee hearings that were held on the MSU campus Wednesday, March 16th. His testimony is available on the Union website. Senator Benfield noted that there is now a consortium of public employee unions working together to protect collective bargaining rights for public employees. He also noted that there is the possibility that workers would be asked to pay 30% of the cost of their healthcare plans. He said this would be an intolerable burden for workers at the lower ends of the pay scale.

He also pointed out that there is a significant chance that the state will not allow the current contract to stay in place in the event that a successor contract is not in place by June 30th. Such a move by the State of New Jersey would create many unanswerable (absent court decisions) questions.

10. Senate President Collins noted that the planned Shared Governance discussion with the provost had to be postponed today. She will be sending a link to an article entitled "When to dissolve a faculty senate?"

11. Senate President Collins asked senators to share Issues from Campus. Senator Specchio asked about the \$500 per person admission price for the Foundation Dinner. He suggested that it should be an inclusive fund raiser. Senator Wolfson said Local 1904 inquired and was told that at the last minute there may be less expensive seats.

Senator Sullivan wondered about University Hall bulletin board posting policies. Senator Benfield suggested that if classrooms are to be commercialized, then at least the vendors should have to pay for the privilege of displaying their wares.

Senator Meneghin said that at the President's Commission on Affirmative Action meeting today there was a strong warning that a large increase in cult activity has been detected. Groups of students are coming on campus and suggesting that our students go off campus with them to learn about their group. Senator Meneghin also noted that the role of merit in scholarship awards is under review.

12. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David Benfield
Recording Secretary