

The March 28, 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: Allen, Alvares, Benfield, Chapel, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Jonathan Cutler, Davis, Dickenson, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich (Cote-Bonanno), Howell, Kelshaw, Lal, Lemesianou, Lin, Mahadevan, Meneghin, Morrissey(Cottrell), Nurse, Oosting, Pardo, Poon, Powell, Prezant, Rodak, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Topic, Wilson, and Zamanian
- II. Approval of January 15, 2012 Minutes – Approved as amended with the addition that the 6 credits from the Interdisciplinary Core will be absorbed into free electives.
- III. Good News/Announcements
 - a. Senator Collins acknowledged Michael Allen who directed 8 which featured President Cole.
 - b. The EOF Boys to Men Conference took place Friday, March 23. Hundreds of young men were invited to campus from 20-25 high schools, primarily in Newark and Essex County. This was an empowerment conference for African-American males letting them know there are people who will help them get into college.
- IV. Elections Committee Report – Jean Alvares
 - a. We still need one more position each for CART, CHSS, and CSAM to have a full slate of candidates. Please encourage people to run. We hope to get the election done within the next two weeks.
- V. Faculty Representative to BOT Report – The BOT has not met since the last Senate meeting – their next meeting is April 5 and we will hear a report at the April 11 Senate meeting.
- VI. Report from Administration – Associate Provost Joanne Cote-Bonanno with an update on the Middle States Periodic Review Report
 - a. Thank you for all the work faculty and staff and been doing and continue to do in our assessment process. This is an ongoing process that we need not just for the periodic review but also for accreditation and to inform curricular work.
 - b. The periodic report is well underway. We have addressed the 2007 recommendation that we did not have a University-wide assessment plan or process. We are now addressing standards 7 and 15, student learning and institutional effectiveness. Everything we say we are doing must be documented so we may ask you for meeting minutes or documentation of assessment plans. At the April 11 meeting the provost will announce the process of how the report will be put out to the community for review, and we will do everything necessary to submit the report electronically by June 1. Your efforts are also used for Middle States.
 - c. A discussion then ensued about the OPDOT report, asking what the implementation plan will be if the committee's recommendation is to move from Blackboard to Moodle. Christine Lemesianou, chair of the committee, stated that a preliminary report was presented last semester and a final report will be coming soon. Any recommendation that is made will not be implemented immediately – there will be time for training. Ed Chapel stated that the transition at other institutions has taken 12-18 months and that during this time the two systems have tended to coexist, but one wildcard is the reliance on the Blackboard community function. If we moved to Moodle we would need to come up with some sort of replacement for this. The Moodle contract is running out at the end of the spring so summer course instructors will need to use Blackboard, but support will be

provided to move materials securely to this format. Moodle has been around for 7-8 years and has lots of outside support, so it is a safe bet. Both Moodle and Blackboard will work on Apple and Android devices. Dr. Chapel also stated that we should be doubling email storage capacity come the fall pending BOT approval. We are not looking to go to cloud-based ownership at this time because there has been a lot of controversy about changes to Google security.

VII. Academic Affairs Council Report – Jason Dickinson

- a. The recommended changes to General Education passed a faculty-wide vote. The Provost's message about changes to Gen Ed has come out and the Council will meet to discuss how to begin the conversation about General Education.

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

IX. Student Affairs Council Report – Michael Allen

- a. We will be soliciting essays for the Senate Book award (\$100 to the Bookstore). The topic will likely be about the tobacco policy on campus.
- b. Dr. Bryan Terry and Mr. Jim Anderson gave a report on Registration Outreach and Financial Aid
 - i. The Center for Advising and Student Transitions revamped its probation program to work with students more individually rather than in a workshop format. They have also made blast phone calls to students with registration holds. Outreach to non-registered students will begin at the end of the priority period and these lists will be shared with the schools and colleges so we can find out why students are leaving. Emails have been sent to all department chairs requesting that students be assigned advisors in their majors and that these advisors be listed on their WESS accounts.
 - ii. In response to senators' questions, students can withdraw from courses without intervention, although students on Academic Probation or who aren't earning 67% of their attempted credits do have holds on their accounts. Faculty are not notified when students withdraw from classes because this process would be too voluminous. Faculty can look at the system to see their most up-to-date roster. If a student withdraws from the university, we are doing outreach to them and will start to notify the colleges about this as well. The registrar is piloting a program with IT and Athletics so that the NCAA officer is notified if any athlete who drops below 12 credits. If the pilot works, we may be able to arrange this for advising coordinators who are interested in this data for their programs.
 - iii. Nearly \$70 million in financial aid was dispersed for the spring semester, a 15% increase over last year. Loans are up 16% and the default rate has dropped. 40% of our students received Pell Grants. The average family income to receive this grant is \$28,000. Students with a \$0 Expected Family Contribution still fall \$1700 short of expenses even when they receive all possible aid. We have been able to make better use of foundation funds to cover these gaps. We've awarded nearly \$700,000 in need-based aid to new and continuing students. All students are evaluated yearly to ensure they are maintaining satisfactory academic progress, defined by earning a 2.0 gpa, 67% of attempted credits, and not over 180 attempted credits. Students who don't meet SAP must appeal, and if appeals are approved the students are put on an academic plan. Students must complete all courses on the plan to continue receiving aid. SAP does not apply to private loans. Only 11% of our students appeared to be working over 20 hrs/week as determined by income, and nearly 2500 students had 0 income.
 - iv. In response to questions, there is no prohibition to students who receive work study working over 20 hours, but the average work study award is \$1200/hr (7

hrs/week). There are no programs to prevent students from working. Only 11% of students are working over 20 hours per week on average, but students are often choosing to work more hours at poor times (during holiday/finals season, for example). Human resources should be able to provide data on how many on-campus jobs are available. We get \$600,000/yr from the government for work study.

X. NAL Report –David Benfield

- a. The procedures for librarians' range changes have been negotiated.
- b. The administration wants to be able to say when you can use 10 of your vacation days. They are not negotiating locally on Fridays off until statewide negotiations are settled.
- c. Elections are coming up.
- d. April 25 from 11:30-1:30 is a day of action on campuses throughout the state to move negotiations along. Wear your blue.

XI. New Business

- a. Issues from Campus (CART, CEHS, CHSS, CSAM, SBUS, Librarians, Prof. Staff, At-Large)
 - i. Professional Staff – We are hearing the expectation for the summer is that we will be expected to work M-R 8:30-4:30 and then use 10 vacation days for those Fridays, in addition to the vacation days we need to take after Thanksgiving and sometimes between Christmas and New Years.
 - ii. CEHS - The Department of Health and Nutrition is being heavily impacted by the removal of the Scientific Issues requirement and would like to resubmit those courses under other categories of Gen Ed. Is there anything the Senate is planning to do to work with the Gen Ed committee to expedite the process of getting these courses approved? The curricular process is outside the Senate, but we did convey these concerns to the President and Provost. Someone from the department can be present at the meeting of the Academic Affairs Council as they begin setting up the discussion on Gen Ed.
 - iii. All of the paper towel dispensers have been removed from University Hall and replaced with hand dryers. This is a sanitary concern and an issue of noise pollution, as well as the fact that we can no longer wipe up spills. The goal is to have this happen in all the buildings. The plan is well-intentioned but has bad effects. We should bring back the paper towels. The Administrative Affairs Committee will look into this concern.

XII. Adjournment at 4:24 pm.

Minutes Approved April 11, 2012

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary