

Montclair, NJ 07043

The November 16, 2011 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:10 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, Chang, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Gardin, Gaynor, Gill, Gingerich, Kelshaw, Lakusta, Lemesianou, Lin, Meneghin, Mengara, Morrissey(Montesino), Nurse, Oluwole, Poon, Powell, Rodak, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Topic, Wolfson, and Yu
- II. Approval of October 26, 2011 Minutes – approved
- III. Good News/Announcements
 - a. The second cross-disciplinary luncheon was a success. Deborah Ragin presented to faculty from multiple departments on “The politics of health: Hidden factors that affect your well-being.” Three luncheons are scheduled for the spring, and we hope for speakers from CSAM, SBUS, and CART.
 - b. Senate e-board members attended the new faculty orientation. Faculty raised concerns including the level of responsiveness of IT staff to faculty requesting start-up equipment, requesting a mentor assigned from faculty member’s own department, needing to purchase start-up equipment with personal credit card and then be reimbursed, the lack of copiers with scanning capability, and the availability of smart classrooms. Carol Nurse confirmed that the library receives requests from faculty to use their smart classrooms which are for library use.
- IV. Elections Committee Report
 - a. The committee will put out a call for nominations during the first week of classes for at-large positions with the hopes of having those filled by February 15. Elections for college-specific positions should be completed by February 28. The following senators’ terms are coming to a close: Adarkar, Allen, Chatterjee, Gaynor, Gill, Lakusta, Lemesianou, Lin, Nurse, Pardo, Topic, Wilson.
 - b. Dr. Collins asked for approval of Dr. Domenica Desiderioscioli to fill an open position on the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee with a term ending in Spring 2013. This request was approved. Another representative has resigned leaving another open position on this committee with a term ending in spring 2012. A faculty member is considering filling this position.
- V. Representative to the Board of Trustees Report – John Luttrupp
 - a. The last meeting was held on October 27. Dr. Cole reported that there was a 15% increase in people attending the October Open House over last year and that there has been a 40% increase in out-of-state applicants. A major focus of the next year will be looking at four-year graduation rates.
 - b. The Board approved the creation of the Center for Quantitative Obesity Research to be housed in CSAM. This center grew out of an NIH award to Professor Diana Thomas.

- c. The University Strategic Plan was presented to and approved by the board.
- d. Various contracts were awarded and personnel actions were approved, including designating Professor Emeritus status to Professors Joseph Attanasio and Mark Friedman of CHSS.
- e. Union President Richard Wolfson presented his concerns that he was not able to view the strategic plan or audit report prior to the meeting to inform his comments on them. Rather than speaking for or against a motion, he asked for a systematic review of senior administrators. He believes they would do well in such a review, but it would be a good strategy for the future as well. He has since received a copy of the strategic plan, but not the audit. He also stated that there was another BOT meeting on November 16 where the board approved contracts for a new heating plant and leasing a 2 acre site for the plant to supply heating and cooling for Dickson Hall. The Board also approved a new tuition scheme for the MBA program. The next meeting is December 15. He will be making a statement and encourages people to attend. Professor Luttrupp stated that he is a representative to, but not really a member of the Board, and his name is not on the list of BOT members sent to the state.

VI. Report from Administration - Provost Gingerich

- a. Our 7th doctoral program and 3rd PhD program has been approved in Family Studies.
- b. The provost gave a statement about the state of the interdisciplinary core in Gen Ed 2002. He would like to reduce the core by 6 credits and remove B1 and B2. The Gen Ed committee has had to create an elaborate system of waivers to allow students to graduate since not enough seats are offered in these courses. There is nothing interdisciplinary about the B1 requirement, and not enough seats available in B2 courses. We are undermining the credibility of our core even though we have a good concept and vision. The Gen Ed committee reports to the provost rather than the Senate, and he has met with them about this issue and will continue to do so. He asked for members to share their thoughts about this proposal via email and to cc Dr. Adarkar, chair of the Gen Ed committee. He would like to set up a process or task force to look seriously at the core to make it meaningful and purposeful in a way that people understand. He would like for the change to take effect as soon as possible, and for the courses to remain on the books, as it is the system, and not the courses, that is the problem.

VII. Academic Affairs Council Report – Christine Lemesianou

- a. The council brought forth the motion that the senate accept the proposal for new gpa standards for Latin honors effective for graduating class of 2012. 19 in favor, 1 opposed 3 abstentions. Motion passed.
- b. The proposal involved raising gpa standards for Latin Honors to 3.7 for cum laude, 3.8 for magna cum laude, and 3.9 for summa cum laude so that approximately 15% of the graduating class instead of 36-38% are receiving these honors. The council looked at peer institutions, and the proposal is in line with their practices. It has the

support of the Deans Council. The proposed date of implementation is August 2012, which is in line with our calendar, where August, January, and May grads all participate in the same ceremony. The standards for Dean's List (3.5) would not change. The proposed standards would remain in effect with periodic review and not be revised on an annual basis. The problem needs to be addressed immediately, and then we can look at the underlying issue of grade inflation.

VIII. Administrative Affairs Council Report – Milos Topic – Nothing to Report

IX. Student Affairs Council Report – Michael Allen

- a. Dr. Allyson Straker-Banks, Asst. VP for Student Academic Services gave a retention update. Over the last 15 years, our first year retention rate has averaged 83%. State average is 82% and last year's cohort was 81.8%. Our 4 year graduation rate is 34.4% and our 6 year rate was 62.3%, our highest ever. A University Retention Committee has been established with three subcommittees: Academic Advising, Academic Support and Special Populations, and Retention Assessment. The committee consists of faculty, administrators, and Institutional research and each subcommittee has faculty representation. The committee will publish reports about their progress.
- b. Dr. Michele Campagna, Executive Director of the Center for Advising and Student Transitions reported on the reorganization that has taken place in Student Academic Services, merging the Center for Academic Advising and Adult Learning with New Student Experience. She introduced Arthur Esposito, the new Associate Director for Academic Advising, and reported on the initiatives of the new office. Senator Alvares inquired about the possibility of expanded tutorial services, and asked if we've looked at retention results since eliminating some basic skills courses. Dr. Straker-Banks said they are looking at revamping the program, and that it is too soon to tell. Dr. Wolfson asked about data on students who are transferring. Dr. Bryan Terry says his office is tracking this, and also trying to figure out what is happening to people who leave but do not transfer. Senator Sullivan suggested receiving data on graduation rates and comparisons with state and national averages to share at Open Houses.
- c. The Student Affairs Council has set up a meeting on December 1 with Dominic Petruzelli regarding the proposal to make Montclair a tobacco-free campus.

X. NAL Report

- a. Collective bargaining at the state level is moving very slowly, but should pick up now that the election is over. The full text of Dr. Wolfson's remarks is on the union website.
- b. An Unfair labor practice charge against all 9 state institutions has been filed on several issues.

- c. Dr. Wolfson stated that with regard to the proposed gen ed changes, that the gen ed was the faculty's and they approved it. The faculty support it and said at the time that it will not be successful unless there is incentive for people teaching it relative to promotion and tenure. The faculty should be the ones to change it if it changes. President Collins reminded the senate that the Gen Ed committee is now under the provost. The provost responded that the gen ed is in an untenable situation, the faculty aren't taking responsibility for it and he cannot fix it. He stated if they faculty wanted to address it, he will work with them.

XI. New Business

- a. Issues from Campus – CART – Senator Kelshaw mentioned that students who haven't paid their tuition have been withdrawn from classes and Blackboard. He wondered about his role as a professor to allow these students to continue in the course if they are working on paying their bills. Senator Lemesianou stated that per the eboard's meeting with the president, the faculty's role is to enforce the fact that the student is no longer enrolled. Students have gotten multiple notifications weeks in advance.

XII. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.