

- I. The November 19, 2014 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:11 pm. (Collins)
- II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Allen, Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Brook, Chang, Charlot, Chatterjee, Collins, Jerry Cutler, Fails, Gainor, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Kelton, Lal, Lin, Lucas, McCann, Mengara, Montesinos, Murray, Pennington, Powell, Sadowsky, Salzman, Samuels, Specchio, Sullivan, Sweeper, and Wolfson.
- III. Approval of October 29, 2014 minutes – Motion by Kelton, 2nd by Alvares, motion passed with 1 abstention.
- IV. Good News/Announcements
 - a. President Collins gave an overview of the Senate at New Faculty Orientation on November 10. They did not raise issues for the Senate, but expressed interest in the cross-disciplinary lunch series. The next presenter will be a new faculty member, Dr. Stanislav Manonov from the information and operations management department on December 1. The November 24 date is canceled. We are still seeking presenters for Jan 26, Feb 9, and Mar 23.
 - b. President Collins made arrangements to have a presentation on MSU's Emergency Plan at the next Senate meeting in response to a request for information about an Ebola plan.
 - c. The Call for Proposals for the Emerging Learning Design conference is still open.
- V. Report from Administration – Provost Gingerich
 - a. Searches for VP of Information Technology, CHSS Dean and SBUS Dean are winding down. A search committee for the Executive Director for Extended Learning has been formed. This position will focus solely on developing fully online programs and continuing education. Our strategic plan calls for 10 fully online programs by 2016 and currently we have two. 7% of total student credit hours are in hybrid and online courses, and 13% of all students are enrolled in a fully online course. Summer and Winter Sessions remains in the provost's office under Assoc Provost Bonato, and Gifted and Talented has moved to CEHS where a new director has recently been hired.
 - b. The executive leadership team for Middle States self-evaluation will be announced shortly. Professors Joan Besing and Christine Lemesianou will be the faculty leadership. Joanne Cote-Bonanno will continue to provide administrative leadership.
 - c. Questions arose about online courses and their evaluations. VP Cutler noted that MSU is working on a policy regarding the amount of online credits faculty can teach. The provost noted that the completion rate for our online programs is very good but there hasn't been a fully coordinated evaluation of online programs. There is a concern about completion rates of online evaluations in all courses. Institutional Research uses an Evaluation Toolkit, which is integrated into Canvas so that students get notifications to respond. Evaluations for online courses are different than for in-person courses because the specific environment needs to be evaluated. This makes it difficult, though, for faculty to compare their online vs. face-to-face courses.
 - d. Concern was expressed about how many adjuncts and instructional specialists are teaching online courses compared to full-time faculty. The provost wasn't sure of exact numbers but stated his commitment to hiring tenure-track faculty. The university is also interested in international opportunities, especially for online courses and has hired an international consultant to look at recruitment.
- VI. Academic Affairs Council Report - no report
- VII. Administrative Affairs Council Report (Kelton)
 - a. The council is awaiting a response regarding Bond Lot safety and tables blocking fire doors
 - b. Senator Kelton will ask the Provost about field trip permission forms asap and apologizes for the delay.
- VIII. Student Affairs Council Report – No report

IX. NAL Report (Benfield)

- a. The Union is committed to a strong Senate. Only through a strong Senate and strong Union can we reach our full potential as a university.
- b. The Union has posted a video on how to read your paystub and will be preparing other videos.
- c. Local negotiations should begin in December. Union officers met with new faculty and signed up a lot of new members. More membership means a stronger voice in statewide negotiations.
- d. In January the Union will be hosting its 3rd annual pizza lunch for students staying on campus.
- e. Members will be surveyed on their top priorities for negotiations.
- f. Bob Noonan stated that the roundtable sponsored by the adjunct union was a great success.

X. Constitution Committee Report (Mengara)

- a. Senator Mengara began the first of three readings of motions to revise the Constitution. Senator Wolfson stated that the first reading needs to be on the agenda to be considered a reading. Instead, Mengara read through the motions to introduce them to the Senators and have a discussion, but this will *not* be the official first reading. It was requested that a merged document tracking changes from the current Constitution be sent to the Senate prior to the first reading.
- b. Motion to move to a 30 minute committee of the whole discussion passed.
- c. The new edits make multiple references to bylaws. Current bylaws are definitions of committees. New bylaws will need to be developed to expand on what is not covered in the Constitution.
- d. No formula was used to create the new membership proposals. The proposal includes 14 at-large seats, 8 of which are open only to faculty and librarians, and 6 of which are open to every voting constituency with the exception of students and part-time faculty. Instructional specialists were erroneously omitted.
- e. It was proposed to remove the NAL rep from the eboard because with the inclusion of all the unions the Senate would need 6 NAL reps or none.
- f. Some senators advocated for a discussion of shared governance prior to updating the Constitution. They questioned what the proposed changes are hoping to accomplish and whether they represent an improvement over the current Constitution.
- g. Senator Mengara stated that the Constitution Committee has no vested interest and is bringing proposals to the entire Senate to be voted up or down. The committee is trying to provide the Senate with a working document before addressing philosophical issues of shared governance.
- h. Senator Samuels moved and Senator Sullivan seconded a motion to extend the discussion by 20 minutes so that everyone who wanted to would have the chance to speak at least once. Motion passed.
- i. Some senators suggested inviting reports from other unions, rather than having reps on the Senate. The question was raised whether those unions even expressed an interest in being on the Senate.
- j. It was questioned why there was a proposal to eliminate the immediate past president position from the eboard, and noted that this change needs to be included in the motion. Senator Mengara stated that the position had become obsolete. Senator Samuels encouraged the Senate to keep the position, and Senator Wolfson encouraged the eboard to include the current immediate past president on the eboard now.
- k. Senator Wolfson inquired about the petition Bob Noonan submitted at the last meeting requesting that a vote to include the president of the adjunct local as a non-voting member on the Senate be included on the agenda. Dr. Noonan requested that this meeting represent the first reading of that motion because he wants to move forward with this request and the Constitution conversation may go on for months. The quorum was gone at this point, so he requested that it be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

XI. New Business

- a. Issues from Campus Senators
 - i. Senator Wolfson yielded the floor to an instructional specialist who requested that a seat dedicated specifically to this title be included on the Senate.

- ii. Senator Wolfson submitted a petition to add to the agenda an amendment to the current Constitution on term limits for the eboard. He also requested that the Senate consider moving the meeting start time to 2:30.
- iii. Senator McCann raised an issue for CART that there was another near-miss for a pedestrian crossing Normal Avenue. There is no lighting at the crosswalk and it is very dangerous.
- iv. Senator Sullivan raised an at-large issue that the Academic Affairs Council has not met in over 6 months and there are issues to address, including the issue of course prerequisites. He asked that a temporary chair be appointed if the current chair is unavailable.
- v. Senator Alvares moved and Senator Kelton seconded to adjourn at 5:13 pm

Minutes Approved January 21, 2015

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary