

Minutes for November 28, 2012

1. Meeting of the University Senate called to order in SC 419 at 3:05pm (S. Collins)
2. Roll Call (Davis)

Present: Allen, Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Chang, Chrite, Collins (president), Cutler, Davis, Dickinson, Ficke, Gardin, Gingerich, Juzdan, Kelshaw, Lakusta, Mahadevan, McCann, Meneghin, Mengara (vice president), Oluwole, Oosting, Pardo, Poon, Powell, Prezant, Rodak, Specchio, Sullivan, Wolfson, Zamanian, Zas

Absent: Chapel, Chatterjee, Gaynor, Gill, Gurskis, Hain, Howell, Hunt, Lal, Lin, Lakusta, Morrissey, Nurse, Pennington, Peterman, Rubin, Sadowsky (secretary), Wilson, Yu

3. Motion
 - To approve minutes of November 28, 2012 moved by Alvares, 2nd by Mengaree, with corrections
4. President's Report and Good News (Collins)
 - Commended the many and generous ways MSU extended outreach to MSU community during recent Hurricane Sandy
 - Provided update to Senate's Cross Disciplinary Discourse Lunchtime Series that were interrupted because of Hurricane Sandy
 - Dr. Zoe Burkholder presented "A New and Better Social Order: Black Teachers and Lessons on Racial Equality Before 1954" on 11/19/12
 - Dr. Christopher Matthews's presentation on "Empowering Communities with Archaeology: Collaborative Research and Cultural Preservation" is rescheduled for 12/3/12
 - Dr. Ndidi Amutah's presentation on "Rethinking the 'C' in Maternal and Child Health: The Role of the Community in Addressing Health Disparities" is scheduled for 12/5/12
 - Confirmed Dr. Luis San Vicente Portes from School of Business. Still working on presentation from College of the Arts
5. Elections committee (Alvares)
 - Schedule is as follows: 1/23/13 put out call for senators-at-large, people may run for at-large position if respective constituency is filled or there are nominees; 2/20/13 announce open constituency positions; 4/17/13 elections wrapped up, new Senators in place
6. Report from Administration (Gingerich)
 - Echo Senate President's comments about University community's response during Hurricane Sandy. Thanks to the entire University community. The campus was an oasis of power and heat; the executive committee met daily to ensure campus facilities, including library, were open. Campus provided refuge. Thanked everyone present. Hopes that a storm like Hurricane Sandy will not happen again but reminded Senate that

last year we experienced Hurricane Irene and that we may have fall/winter storm events in the future. On 11/27/12 the Passaic River Institute sponsored responses to Hurricane Sandy; Power is functioning now. University is in process of conducting a study of trees on campus in relation to power lines to determine if any preventative measures, to avoid loss of power, might be necessary

- Provost Gingerich reported that Middle States has reaccredited MSU programs without conditions. All reports reviewed, accepted and passed with flying colors.
- As of today, applications for spring 2012 sabbaticals have been received by provost.
- Decisions will be finalized by 12/3/12. The new sabbatical schedule and process are posted on VPAA/Provost's website.
- Also posted in VPAA/Provost's website are videos of 2012 Montclair State Distinguished Scholar Yasemin Besen-Cassino, Associate Professor of Sociology and 2012 Distinguished Teacher Christine A. Lemesianou, Professor in the School of Communication and Media. At a later time Provost will announce the spring date for Dr. Besen-Cassino to discuss her research. In the future each awardee will receive their own website (page).
- Provost Gingerich was asked about the % (portion) of campus that will be serviced by the new heating and cooling system currently underway on campus. Provost is unsure but stated the new heating and cooling system will reduce 35%-37% of MSU carbon footprint; the system will be more efficient than the current one.
- Provost was also asked about impact of new system on MSU power grid. Said he couldn't answer because the current project is unrelated to power grid.

7. Report from Academic Affairs Council (AAC)

- Motion for Senate to enter Committee of the Whole (COW) by Sullivan, 2nd by Specchio to discuss Provost's Proposal for Academic Policy (PPAP) changes. COW will allow Senators to have free and open discussion about the Policy apart from the constraint of Roberts Rule of order. At 3:36pm President Collins allotted 20 minutes for COW to discuss document.
 - Cutler, Chair of Senate's AAC, began by providing a summary of the PPAP.
 - Many places in the document suggest we should push students to graduate in less time than is currently happening. Presently 40% graduate at 4 years, 57% in 5 years, 62% in six years. This push seems rather ambitious given the range of time to degree. Perhaps even more ambitious for transfer students.
 - Process for changing and declaring major seems a bit unclear. Are students expected to obtain approval changes from academic or faculty advisor? Should advisor be in the current major or the intended/future major? Who will monitor and enforce whether students get requisite advisement?
 - What if students don't follow the policy? What will be the procedures for monitoring the overall process? Who will be expected to enforce the policy when it is not followed?
 - Rodak—values the idea of giving students a sequence; 1st year students need to be kept on track; in mandating a course map, will students be duplicating courses

- if they take the course at a later date? Will students extend time to graduation if they change majors?
- Sullivan—be mindful of the unintended consequences; for people who work full time, the policy may be too rigid, too difficult; policy may not work well given that MSU does not have large portion of campus students
 - *Not sure if this was Oosting or a continuation of Sullivan*—MSU will need to offer enough sections; students will need to get into their major right away; students shouldn't be able to decide @ 90 credits that they want to change their major
 - Alvarez—2nd major question is an answer to something that is not a problem; this is a solution we don't need; not a problem that exists; the idea for this policy is based on a school/institution—*University of TX*--that isn't like MSU
 - Specchio—we should want to help students but the policy as written is too strict; neither too much nor too little help is good; where is the hard data that there is a problem? We should reduce the time to graduation but is this like a high school document? Are we making students dependent on us? Are we treating students like they are in grammar school? Policy document should avoid using the term “approve” which is a legal term; U.S. gov't doesn't use the term; Consider replacing “approved by faculty member” to “reviewed by faculty member” or “recommended by faculty member;” we are not prepared for the possible implications that may follow when students aren't “approved;” perhaps say students “can't” register if action is not reviewed by faculty or academic advisor
 - Benfield—agrees with Specchio about absent data; students don't teach themselves; how many students make it through on their own? Many do.
 - Alavares—Many students make it on their own.
 - Sullivan—How many students have met with their department faculty major?
 - DeBlasio—2300 of 2400 students did see their advisor because they could not register without a meeting; but it's hard to know; uncertain as to what each particular department does to handle advisement; practices vary by department
 - Gingerich—unsure of the # but CEHS has imposed mandatory advisement for graduate students to meet with faculty advisor; earth and environmental science has mandatory advisement too; reiterated recently instituted mandatory advisement for freshman
 - Alvares—there is logic to not allowing transfer at 90 credit but boosting up with advisement requirement is problematic; transfers come in with excess credit but no grades; a student who want to change majors at 90 credits is the result of poor or non-advisement
 - *Sullivan—mandatory advisement for...might be the solution; teacher education students, transfer credits coming in with vets and other areas must considered;*
 - Motion to end COW for 5min approved by Collins
 - Sullivan—need to come back with responses to these questions; we need to acknowledge the real and legitimate concerns; scrutiny helps to process the need to find ways to help students get their degrees in a more efficient manner; to identify more pathways to arrive at the goal of degree completion
 - Ambrose—the must have questions answered are: where does the responsibility lie—with advisor or faculty? where does the handholding stop? this can be very restrictive ; we're trying to help; where do the measures of trying to help stop before crossing the line into other tasks?

- Rodak—who will enforce policy—advisors, faculty? Agreed that there should be a shorter time to degree but perhaps instead of these restrictions there are other answers such as course sequencing, determining when courses are offered
 - Specchio—before we can approve these restrictions we must look at current advising practices; understand how students are getting into courses; determine how much hand holding we should do; Where do our responsibilities begin and end? We need to be realistic; in theory this sounds good but we must consider the students we serve
 - Meneghin—start by determining who needs to be responsible? Students don't know or are unclear of how the university works; need to venture into how classes work
 - Meeting of the COW ends 4:01pm
8. Tobacco Campus Task Force Report--Oluwale
- Marie Cascarano has agreed to convene the group until a chair is selected
 - The charge of the committee is to develop a tobacco policy for the campus; public hearings will be scheduled to receive input from campus community
9. Report from Student Affairs—Allen
- met with SGA president Juzdan to hear student concerns that included fines levied by bookstore when faculty submit late orders; suggested SGA's concerns about faculty classroom practices be directed to Cigdam Talgar, Associate Director, Research Academy for University Learning, Academic Affairs
 - next meeting is scheduled for 10:30am on 12/12/12 in Life Hall 220
 - Collins—25 students from Passaic High School visited campus on 11/27; 9 students indicated definite interest in MSU because of visit; urged other faculty to take advantage of the opportunity to work with Bryan Terry to support MSU student recruitment
10. NAL report—Benfield
- Memorial service at council meeting for Nick Yovnello and Bill Rand, Distinguished Faculty in Biology;
 - Disaster relief grant awards through NAL website
 - Sabbatical leaves applications for 2013 are with the provost; possible 12 applications for 10 slots
 - Defined “essential personnel” as staff with highest priority on campus
 - Selection procedures for local as opposed to state negotiations are underway
 - Sullivan—national and state AFT worked hard to help people displaced and impacted by Hurricane Sandy; many public service employees, Verizon, public works workers are union people
11. New Business
- Collins—wants to move into COW to discuss recent action of student suspension from Blackboard (BB); to provide opportunity for feedback on impact of suspension of access on academic process
 - Motion to enter COW moved by Sullivan , 2nd by Pardo
 - Sullivan—What's the role of faculty?; what happens when faculty are not notified; should develop a way to inform faculty; develop ways to share concerns from academic side; suspending students from BB needs to be communicated to

- faculty; students are precluded from exams and projects when they are denied BB access; when students are precluded what obligations do faculty have?
- Wolfson—how many students were affected?
 - Terry (AVP Enrollment & Student Academic Services)—804 students denied on 1st day; 400 denied by end of 1st day; 204 dropped; there was an all or nothing reregistering/reinstating; denial of BB access based on financial obligations to the University
 - Pardo—the policy denying students' access to BB is disruptive to faculty; the correspondence from administration came after the fact; when is the absolute deadline for students to pay? Consider a process that does not interrupt instruction
 - Dickinson—if students are enrolled in the course we are expected to teach them which we will do; so if they are unenrolled and they continue to come to class that creates extra work for faculty; the practice is setting students up to fail
 - Gingerich—who has information on the process? was told he had precise information; sounds like most people have not received information
 - Collins—not addressing the academic side; explained the process; need sensitivity towards students as previously discussed in Senate; faculty used to receive roster updates; learning that management system is disabled but students are still enrolled in the course; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) precludes faculty from being told certain information; the policy needs to be clear to faculty; can some communication be made clearer to faculty; denying access to BB may not be the answer
 - Sullivan—student brought denied access to faculty's attention; one student was waiting on money; another student said parent didn't pay bill; we should note sometimes outstanding debt is not students' fault but rather their family
 - Kirk (Adjunct's Union AFT Local 6025)—students just disappear without any notice to faculty; need to receive communication because the policy has special impact on adjunct who are not in the mix because of the nature of their relationship to the University; the practice puts adjuncts at a disadvantage; must now make hand notes/record when students are removed; faculty must create a 2nd grading notation system
 - Dickinson—some faculty aren't generous and will just fail students; it is ambiguous about how we handle it
 - Meneghin—consider thought process when students are removed from BB get lots of attention but letters, emails, phone calls haven't been addressed; not taking responsibility; if we drop and come running the
 - Wolfson—military checks don't come through; given the disruption won't post grades and unable to register in the future; grades won't post
 - Sullivan—are students notified when dropped from BB? Were students told to contact faculty advisor
 - Benfield—can give grades
 - Terry—sometimes it's a credit worthiness issue; once students are gone they are ghosts
 - Motion to extend Cow moved by Sullivan, 2nd by Dickinson
 - Juzdan—if students don't pay bill there is a hold on WESS account; if they check Montclair email will they see a bill adjustment?

- Gardin—where are the letters sent—home address; personal email?
- Terry—MSU makes 10-12 attempts to contact students, then move to classrooms, and faculty who aren't told to proceed
- Alvares—reiterate PT faculty needs to receive better communication; dept chairs receive notification of room changes why not contact chairs regarding students being dropped?; communication problem exists; the last date for paying bills can theoretically allow students to complete the course; there needs to be a different incentive structure to rush people into paying their bill; not being able to register is another option
- Juzdan—communication isn't clear to different groups; underlying problem is to find a way to work with students, faculty, and staff; a policy is needed
- Wilson—must do something given the outstanding debts; spoke of personal experience with MSU unenrolling students for outstanding debts
- Kirk—what's the timeline; has this endured beyond the fall 2012 semester; the bill must be at least \$2,000
- Mengara—regarding BB issue, what's the logic? Is it that the university doesn't want to say they're kicking out students vs dropping?; there is a disruption to those who use BB; what's the intent and consequence of MSU?
- DeBlasio—have faculty join group responsible for creating policy; collaboratively they can decide best way to communicate to students; whether it's via faculty in class
- Collins—thanked everyone for a productive exchange; this provided an opportunity to hear academic side; perhaps a smaller group should continue the discussion

12. Issues from Campus—None

13. Motion to adjourn at 4:58

- Moved by Meneghin, 2nd by Sullivan

Next Meeting: December 19, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,
 Danné E. Davis
 11/28/12