

- I. The September 2, 2014 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 4:07 pm. (Collins)
 - a. Senator Sullivan called a point of order inquiring as to why a roll call was being taken of the prior year's senate. President Collins stated that there are items to be voted on that new senators do not know about and Robert's rules do not prohibit this. Senator Sullivan challenged and the challenge was seconded. President Collins requested the roll call again.
 - II. Roll Call of 2013 roster (Sadowsky) Present: Allen, Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Chapel, Chatterjee, Collins, Jerry Cutler, Fails, Gardin, Gill, Gingerich, Hunt, Kelton, Lal, Mengara, Montesinos, Murray, Nurse, Oosting, Pardo, Peterman (rep), Powell, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, and Wolfson.
 - III. Approval of March, April and May 2014 minutes – Approved with one abstention
 - IV. Elections Committee – Senator Gill presented the slate of eboard candidates: President - Sandra Collins; Vice President - Daniel Mengara; Corresponding Secretary – Jean Alvares; Recording Secretary – Kathleen Sadowsky; Academic Affairs Council Chair – Jonathan Cutler; Administrative Affairs Council Chair – AJ Kelton; Student Affairs Council Chair – vacant.
 - a. Senator Gill moved to elect the eboard and Senator Alvares seconded
 - b. Senator Allen nominated himself to serve as Student Affairs council chair
 - c. Senator Gill read the updated list of candidates and moved to elect the eboard. Senator Alvares seconded.
 - d. The eboard was elected with 15 in favor of the motion.
 - V. Alvares motioned to adjourn the 2013-2014 senate at 4:14. Kelton seconded.
-
- I. The 2014-2015 Senate was called to order at 4:14
 - II. New Senators Jack Samuels, Ken Brook, David Trubatch, Erik Jacobson, and Kathy Gainor were officially seated.
 - III. Q & A with President Cole
 - a. The President stated that although enrollments are very strong, we need to look at continuing enrollments at the grad and undergrad levels. We need to tackle program by program students who invest in their education but do not graduate. This is important both for MSU's efficiency and effectiveness and for students to complete their degrees. If the Senate has any thoughts on the issue it should raise them with the provost. We have lists that are updated daily to show who these students are. The departments also have access to lists of students on academic action. While some of the issue of non-returning students is financial, this is not the only issue. Financial aid does have emergency funding for qualified students. We will be hiring a new associate provost who will focus on undergraduate education and will be working year-round with departments.
 - i. The provost clarified that this position is independent from a new director of the Research Academy for University Learning. Before searching for that position the role will need to be clarified, but it will not be a vice provost for instruction.
 - ii. Senator Brook noted that male students in anthropology who do poorly in one semester are more likely than females who did poorly to do poorly the following semester and advocated for support for males. He also stated that no African-American or Hispanic men applied for promotion this year. President Cole stated that the new vice provost should address the first issue and that the second issue is variable year to year.
 - iii. President Cole advocated for departmental group advising sessions with students to develop department camaraderie and also streamline advising for faculty with large advising caseloads.
 - b. The 30 higher education bills put forth by assemblyman Joe Cryan are "pretty dead" and seemed to be created primarily to start a discussion.
 - c. The President has no intention of exploring joining Division I for athletics.
 - d. Regarding enrollment, the President would like to see growth to 25,000 according to the strategic plan, but these additional students would most likely be in online instruction, graduate programs, and potentially off-campus in corporate settings.

IV. Report from Administration – Provost Gingerich

- a. The Provost complimented the good working relationship he has had with the Senate and asked for the Senate's support on several initiatives.
- b. The anticipated Associate Provost for undergraduate education will work with all of you to pursue trends across the University. While we have a lot of data, some of it is uncomsumable.
- c. Stop by the Center for Writing Excellence's new location in Bohn Hall. This is a university service that will even tutor faculty.
- d. We are putting together a team for Middle States. AVP Cote-Bonanno will be on the team preparing the self-study. MSU is one of 15 institutions that will be part of a collaborative implementation project which is a new self-study model that reduces standards from 14 to 7 and re-orientes everything to students. The steering committee requires two faculty co-chairs. There will also be subcommittees and working groups which will include faculty and staff. OneMontclair will be working in tandem with the self-study. This is the year for data collection. The number one strategic challenge we are not meeting in our plan is graduate enrollment.
- e. The Provost will be sending a memo to faculty today or tomorrow stating that we must immediately implement a procedure of enrollment verification before student aid funds can be disbursed. This is a result of a recent federal program review of Title 4 compliance which found that a small number of students received financial aid payments while not attending the university. As a result, we will be implementing a simple assignment in Canvas for all undergraduate and graduate courses with 3 generic questions that students must answer to prove their attendance. The questions are "Why did you enroll in this course? Is this the first course you have taken in this subject? Do you think this course will help you in your career?" Students who fail to respond will not receive their federal aid.
 - i. Much discussion ensued. Many senators took issue with the questions, stating they seemed to be an evaluation of the course rather than a validation of attendance. VP Chapel stated that faculty can change the questions in Canvas if they wish.
 - ii. The federal government did not give guidelines as to how this verification was to be completed. For online courses it is typically done through completion of an online assignment. Another method will need to be found for professors who do not use Canvas.
 - iii. Dismay was expressed that the Provost did not engage the governance process and approach the Senate for input before a decision was made.
 - iv. Senators were also unhappy that Canvas, an academic tool, was being used for administrative procedures. A Canvas course should not be utilized without faculty input. VP Chapel stated this process seemed less burdensome than using an attendance-taking module.
 - v. Senators' alternate suggestions included: creating a Canvas community for impacted students, having faculty take attendance for this administrative purpose, even if the university and class does not have a specific attendance policy, and informing the students why the questions are being asked so they understand it is an administrative rather than course requirement.
 - vi. Director of Financial Aid, Jim Anderson stated that students are able to get Red Hawk Dollars based on anticipated aid, so that even if aid has not yet disbursed they can still purchase textbooks.
 - vii. The provost emphasized that this is a last-minute solution that needs refinement for the future.
 - viii. Senator Collins suggested he meet with the eboard and other interested faculty as soon as possible to address issues.

V. Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes Approved September 17, 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary