

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE of *Montclair State University*

Montclair, NJ 07043

1. The September 1, 2010 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Senate President Dr. Saundra Collins.
2. Recording Secretary Dr. David Benfield called the roll. Present at the meeting were the following members: Adarkar, Alvares, Benfield, Chatterjee, Collins, Cutler J, Dickinson, Gaynor, Gill, Gingerich, Hain, Howell, Hunt, Kelshaw, Lemesianou, Lin, Loysen, Lucas, Mengara, Meneghin, Morrissey, Newman, Nurse, Oluwole, Oosting, Powell, Prezant, Roberts, Rodak, Sadowsky, Sullivan, Theodosiou, Topic, Wilson, & Wolfson.
3. The Minutes of the 5/12/10 meeting were approved without objection but with one abstention.
4. Senate President relayed the good news that Senator Lakusta gave birth recently. Dean Theodosiou noted that Grad School enrollment is up by 33 FTEs; Senator Kelshaw reminded everyone that MSU is hosting several 9/11 National Flag events.
5. President Cole was introduced and she reiterated the importance of the National Flag events and announced that Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno will be on campus representing the Governor. Dr. Cole observed that the university is never completely built but rather is something always growing. The incomplete construction in the center of the campus provides a better sense of the growth and change and if one looks closely the northern end of campus is changing before your eyes.

Dr. Cole charged the Senate to make sure we are doing what we need to do to insure student success and graduation progress rates. She continued that we need to examine the coordination and rigor of our academic programs. According to statistics from a respected national survey, the N.S.S.E. (National Survey of Student Engagement), MSU is not as successful in the junior and senior year as it is in freshmen and sophomore years. She went on to explain that the mix of students may keep courses from being challenging. Native (non-transfer) students are the source of data about upper level courses being less challenging.

Senate President Collins asked how MSU compares with other schools. Provost Gingerich answered that MSU is a bit below the national survey norms. Pres. Cole then indicated that we need to make better use of instructional technology to allow students to proceed at their own pace. At this point Dr. Cole invited questions from the Senate.

Senator Wolfson thanked Dr. Cole for the new traffic light at the Carlisle Road and Quarry Road intersection. Senator Alvares inquired as to whether the coming increase in the instructional space available signals a new round of enrollment growth.

Dr. Cole asserted that the new buildings will not bring about any change in our slow steady growth in enrollment. In particular, the new Science building will permit interdisciplinary teams to have lab space. At the moment there is not enough lab space; so, recruiting of additional science faculty is being limited since it makes no sense to hire a faculty member and then refuse to provide a lab.

According to Dr. Cole, modern schools of business and Partridge Hall have little in common. The new business and science buildings will provide needed faculty space primarily although there will be some additional seats for students.

Senator Dickinson asked for a summary of town-gown relations. Dr. Cole indicated that the University's relations with Little Falls are good. Representatives from MSU have attended several recent Little Falls Council meetings, and relations with the town of Montclair are equally excellent. Like Little Falls, Bloomfield is very supportive of the University and has encouraged the location of University facilities within its boundaries. At the request of Senator Sullivan President Cole clarified the zoning status of 855 Valley Road. 855 Valley Road is not zoned for teaching, hence classes are not scheduled there.

Next President Cole was asked to explain Montclair State University's relation to the various ROTC programs open to students. MSU students may enroll in Army ROTC through Seton Hall University and in Air Force ROTC through NJIT. These college ROTC programs involve coursework and a significant Physical Training (PT) component. The possibility that this PT component might be offered at MSU is currently under discussion. If that happened, MSU students would still continue to do their military coursework at either Seton Hall or NJIT. There is no current plan to offer military coursework on the MSU campus.

President Cole was asked about the use of funds generated by the various furlough programs in effect this past fiscal year. She noted that, while the collective monies represented a significant personal sacrifice for employees, in total the amount did not cover the underfunding of the mandated salary increases. After Senate President Collins asked for additional questions and there were none, she thanked President Cole for her remarks and there was a round of applause.

6. Senators received their individual Council assignments and members of each Council were encouraged to meet briefly with their chairs after the main meeting adjourned.

7. The NAL (Negotiations Agent Liaison) Report was provided by Senator Benfield. He noted the introduction into the New Jersey Senate of S2026 and a companion bill in the Assembly. This enabling legislation would break up the statewide union known as the Council of New Jersey State College Locals and require each of the nine institutions of higher education to bargain separately. Who the local bargaining agent would be might well have to be determined by elections at each institution.

After Senator Benfield spoke he yielded the floor to Senator Wolfson who reported on the recent change in leadership of AFT Local 1904 (the campus Union).

8. At 4:43 p.m. Senate President Collins asked for and received a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David Benfield
Recording Secretary