

I. The September 25, 2013 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:06 pm. (J. Alvares)

II. Roll Call (Sadowsky) Present: Allen, Alvares, Ambrose, Benfield, Chang, Chatterjee, Cutler, Davis, Fails, Gardin, Gaynor, Gingerich, Grinberg, Hunt, Kelshaw, Kelton, Lakusta, Lal, Lin, McCann, Morrissey(Cottrel), Murray, Oosting, Pardo, Pennington, Peterman, Poon, Powell, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Wilson, Wolfson, and Yu.

III. Approval of September 3, 2013 minutes – approved

IV. Good News/ Announcements

- 1) The ground-breaking ceremonies for the new CELS and School of Business Buildings went very well.

V. Faculty Representative to Board of Trustees Report - No representative present

VI. Report from Administration (Provost Gingerich)

- 1) The designs for the new Business and CELS buildings are complete. Morehead Hall is being renovated to house faculty in the School of Communication and Media. A new communication building will also be coming.
- 2) At an Institute for International Education gala the provost was informed by the Director of the Scholar Rescue program that Montclair takes more scholars than other universities.
- 3) A draft of an updated strategic plan should be released by the end of October. It will contain dashboard indicators and updates on objectives.
- 4) The director of the Research Academy for University Learning search is ongoing. We have several finalists.
- 5) The conference center was packed to hear the author of the Common Read speak.
- 6) OneMontclair is progressing
- 7) We have approved 39 new tenure-track faculty positions for search and the ad is out. Some positions are open rank. Protocols have been revised so the searches can move more quickly and we can attract the best candidates.
- 8) The Sokol Lecture will take place at 8:00 on October 1. Dr. David McCormick will speak on "Cell phones and Cancer risks: What do we really know?"
- 9) The provost distributed documents from the advising summit illustrating his points that it is better to have a college degree than not, and it is better to get it in four years rather than 6. We had an unprecedented jump in first year retention from 81.6% to 86% looking at 2011 and 2012 cohorts. We think mandatory freshman advisement had an impact on this. Females have already reached our strategic plan goal of a 6 year graduation rate of 70%. Men need help.
- 10) The provost commented he would look into visiting scholars' parking situation when it was raised that they currently spend \$180 to park.
- 11) With the new academic policies, Senator Alvares asked if chairs could be informed if credit adjustments or change of major forms they sign off on are turned down later in the process.
- 12) Senator Benfield praised the advising summit and also encouraged a culture of skepticism. The provost assured the Senate that the retention jump numbers for example, are very real, and Steve Johnson in Institutional Research does excellent work.
- 13) A discussion ensued about the enrollment of freshmen in hybrid and online courses. Yanling Sun has put together materials on how to do online courses. Freshmen are informed of the pros and cons of these courses. They are encouraged to enroll in 16 credits because they need the rhythm of a full load.

VI. Academic Affairs Council Report – no report

VII. Administrative Affairs Council Report – no report

VIII. Student Affairs Council Report

- 1) Lisa Kasper, Director of Undergraduate Admissions spoke about the Incoming Class and Future Recruitment Plans. The Fall 2013 class is the largest by more than 500 in Montclair's history. Our freshman goal was 2800 and as of September 16, census date, we had 3046. The transfer class is the second largest in the University's history with 1529. The class was 11% Black/African American, 23%

Hispanic, 7% Asian, 62% female. They came from all NJ counties, and 23 states plus Puerto Rico and D.C. There were 19 veterans and 29 non-traditional students. Our acceptance rate is between 48 and 54%.

- 2) The recruitment areas of focus for next year will be Woodbridge, Freehold, Trenton, Toms River, Atlantic City, and Cherry Hill areas.
- 3) Admissions will increase communication to prospects threefold. Campus visitations will increase, along with the opportunity for high achieving students to attend a class. Please contact admissions if you would like to participate.
- 4) Admissions is trying to create factsheets for every major and is reaching out to department chairs for information. They are looking to see what jobs graduates get with your major and where they end up. Let admissions know with sufficient lead-time if you are hosting an event and they can help advertise to prospective students.
- 5) Admissions is meeting with the provost and attending deans council meetings. Think about your audience and the marketability of your major when developing new programs. Keep things simple and link majors to careers.
- 6) Amy Meckeler is the associate director for marketing and recruitment, focusing on outreach. Tova Tolman is the associate director focusing on admissions operations and processing.
- 7) Ms. Kasper then responded to questions from the senators. There are no specific veteran recruitment plans in place, put per Dr. Pennington, we are part of Operation College Promise, a statewide college recruitment organization. Denise Rodak is the contact. MSU actively recruits students who participated in the High Jump Program. Admissions is meeting with the provost to discuss whether we wish to pursue high school to college articulation programs. The provost is generally not a fan of accrediting college courses given in a high school, but high school students taking courses on campus is another matter. We should look into Union County Vo-Tech's interest in articulating with us in an exercise science program. Dr. Pennington confirmed that we have a goal of becoming a Hispanic-Serving Institution, which requires 25% Hispanic student enrollment and would open us up to more federal funding. We are translating recruitment materials into Spanish. While students express a strong interest in applied programs we continue to support the liberal arts.
- 8) Dr. Pennington reported on the status of Blackboard shutoff for students who have not paid their term bills. Notices went out to 2400 students. Numbers then went down to 900 and as of Sept 24 we were down to 501 students. She will let us know whether material students submitted through Blackboard earlier in the semester will remain there after Blackboard shutoff. Lists of affected students were sent to faculty. If a student is deregistered you will get more information from enrollment management but in short, if a student keeps attending your class, you need to tell them they are no longer registered. Only students owing more than \$2000 will be deregistered, so chances are very slim they will be able to pay after the deadline.

IX. NAL Report

- 1) Special election for US Senator is October 16. Election Day is November 5. The statewide union has endorsed a candidate, but the local has not. Get out the vote.
- 2) The Administration is looking to streamline personnel decisions, including career development, reappointment, and promotions. If you have concerns about the changes in procedures, speak with your union steward. We have only a very weak idea of what streamlining means in this case. Wolfson added that it is difficult to find all of the information surrounding promotion, tenure, retention and reappointment. The procedures don't necessarily need revamping but the process is difficult. The provost concurred this is true and added this is part of what streamlining means.
- 3) The local has endorsed approving an increase in the minimum wage. We have lawn signs in support of question 2.

X. New Business

- 1) Appointment of Senate Representatives to UGCC – A motion was approved and seconded to appoint Dr. Kristin Scrabis-Fletcher in Exercise Science and Physical Education as a University Senate Representative to the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for 2013-2016. The motion was approved with two abstentions

2) Issues from Campus

- a) CHSS: The sidewalk parallel to the fence of the new business building is not paved and it is difficult to see. The path from Dickson Hall down the Hill down to lot 30 needs more lighting.
- b) Senator Kelton was asked to mention that the information on the Senate website needs updating.
- c) A senator questioned the safety around lots near the recreation center with so much pedestrian traffic and questioned why cars cannot go straight up the hill to Lot 17.
- d) A senator asked about the FSP (Faculty Scholarship Program) wondering if the process is consistent across colleges. The provost stated that the policy is in the union agreement and deans make the final decisions.
- e) Rey Junco will be on campus on September 27 speaking in two different sessions.
- f) Bob Nunan, president of the adjunct union stated that last year he sent a letter to the Senate president requesting that the union have a non-voting participant on the Senate. He requested a formal response.
- g) The provost verified that there are more than 1000 adjuncts teaching at Montclair but they teach fewer than 50% of the class sections.

XI. Adjournment at 4:28 p.m.

Minutes Approved October 16, 2013

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Sadowsky, University Senate Recording Secretary