

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE of *Montclair State University*

Montclair, NJ 07043

1. The November 17, 2010 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Senate President Dr. Sandra Collins.

2. Recording Secretary Dr. David Benfield called the roll. Present at the meeting were the following members: Adarkar, Alvares, Benfield, Chang, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Cutler J, Dickinson, Gaynor, Gill, Gingerich, Howell, Hunt, Kelshaw, Lemesianou, Loysen, Mengara, Meneghin, Morrissey (Montesinos), Nurse, Oluwole, Pardo, Poon, Powell, Prezant, Roberts, Rodak, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Topic, Wilson, & Wolfson.

3. The Minutes of the 10/20/10 meeting were approved without objection.

4. Under the heading of very good news Dr. Collins applauded the dedication of John Basilone Hall, a new dorm in The Heights, to the memory of the only WW II Congressional Medal of Honor winner from New Jersey. Senate President Collins attended a workshop devoted to online teaching. She noted that it was so good that it should be offered much earlier in the semester.

5. Senate President Collins and Administrative Affairs Chair Topic attended a meeting of the New Faculty Orientation Program. Among the issues mentioned and questions raised were the following:

- a) Could the University be more involved in helping new faculty families to settle in the area?
- b) Could there be a more efficient way for a faculty member to regain access to her or his office after becoming locked out? Apparently in one instance it required nearly two hours in spite of efforts by Campus Police.
- c) Could photocopying be standardized at a more generous level across the campus?
- d) Could Sprague Library subscribe to the IEEE Digital Library?

Dr. Collins promised that the Senate will look into each issue and, when appropriate, will share the concern with the President Cole.

6. Senator Specchio, a veteran himself, suggested that the luncheon hosted by the University for veterans was a great idea. He went on to suggest that next year it would be good if it were free. Denise Rodak, Coordinator of Veteran's and Military Resources, welcomed the suggestion and noted that this year the goal was to expand the activities of Veterans' Week. Senator Specchio's suggestion will be taken into consideration in planning for next year. Senator Wolfson suggested that there be a partnering of employees with veterans and that the non-veteran partner would treat the veteran to the luncheon.

5. The Elections Committee report from Sen. Alvares indicated that soon the University Senate will be at full strength. A complete roster will be posted shortly.

6. Provost Gingerich provided the report from the Administration. He suggested that everyone read carefully the cover story in the current *Chronicle of Higher Education Review*. The article is entitled "Shadow Scholar" and it details the sort of plagiarism services that can be purchased. The Provost mentioned it, in part, because the subject of plagiarism has come up before the Senate in the past. The author of the papers, the "shadow scholar," was most proud of his essays on the topic of Ethical Behavior for submission by seminary students.

The Provost attended the Annual Meeting of the APLU or the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities. At this meeting there was a report from the Harvard School of Education describing the results of its COACH program for the mentoring of young scholars.

The Provost reminded the group that today is the last day to apply to be dean of the graduate school. The Provost then discussed the combined BA/MA programs that are being developed. The details will be outlined in a soon-to-be-released publication from the Office of the Graduate School. In essence such programs involve a merge of two

existing degrees. Students in a program would take 9-12 graduate credits that would be applied both to their undergraduate major and to their graduate degree. The student then graduates and in one year is able to finish the M.A. These programs allow the University to keep its best students; they increase graduate enrollments, and their existence attracts new students to the university.

The Provost then turned to the question of replacing department chairs with directors. He indicated that University President Cole was adamant that there is no plan to replace chairs with directors. He was directly asked whether the new Associate Director for Faculty in the Cali School of Music is a model for departments in general. His answer was that it is not. Senate President Collins noted that the rumors surrounding this issue were widespread.

Senate Academic Affairs Council Chair Jason Dickinson inquired whether MSU might have some role to play in keeping NJN from going dark soon. The Provost indicated that since one NJN tower is located on the MSU campus, the University was looking into the opportunities available.

Senator Powell wondered about the consequences for students in the combined degree programs who would take 9-12 fewer undergraduate credits than usual. He noted that there would be a financial incentive since the students pay the undergraduate rate for their graduate credits. In particular, he wondered what the educational effect of this process would be. Provost Gingerich replied that taking 9 credits of graduate course work as an undergraduate would be educationally beneficial since undergrads would be sitting in the same classroom with graduate students. Dean Cutler remarked that the CEHS is about to launch a combined BA/MAT program that will provide its graduates with teacher certification in elementary education and in special education, and a master's degree. In the discussion that ensued, it was noted that there is a risk that the center of gravity for a course might shift toward the undergrad program resulting in a shortchanging of the graduate students. Other senators asked whether a department seeking to offer a combined B.A. / M.A. would need to complete a full Program Approval Document. The Provost indicated that every effort would be made to streamline the approval process.

Senator Kelshaw asked whether the faculty representative to the Board of Trustees might submit a written report to the University Senate since often he has a meeting that conflicts with the Senate's meeting.

7. Senator Dickinson provided the Academic Affairs Council report. The Council is considering the issue of whether students are being allowed to withdraw late for medical reasons from one course but not from all courses. There is an existing Senate-approved policy on this matter and the question is whether it is being enforced and working satisfactorily.

8. Senator Topic provided the Administrative Affairs Council report. He noted that the Council investigated Parking Violations Appeals and that at MSU approximately 20% of citations are appealed compared with only 1% nationally. In answer to various questions it posed, the Council discovered the following: the Administration is interested in the suggestion that a traffic light should be installed at the intersection of Carlisle Road and Webster Road; the situation there will be monitored and revisited if need be; Lot 26 will remain an adjunct-only lot for the remainder of this semester; valet parking is not feasible due to liability and insurance issues; once The Heights dorms are completed, several hundred parking spaces will be returned to inventory; and since there is currently ample space in the Red Hawk Deck, there is no need to dedicate two levels of it for use by faculty only.

The Council also investigated the policy on ticket pricing at various CART events. Students are given one free ticket per run for a show. There is a policy of charging other members of the University community \$15. This policy has been in effect for two years. Free tickets are not a CART faculty perk.

Senator Topic noted that the Exec Board is trying to update the website and that photo sessions with University photographer Mike Peters will be held on 12/1 between the hours of 10-12 and 2-5 in room CH 117.

9. The Student Affairs Council presented a draft motion on smoking policy. A lengthy discussion ensued. Senator Oluwole raised privacy concerns about the prohibiting of chewing tobacco in residence halls. The discussion led to the collective decision to have the Senate Exec Board reformulate the motion before putting it up for a vote.

10. Dr. Allyson Straker-Banks, Assistant Vice-President for Student Academic Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation on retention and graduation rates. Montclair State's rates are competitive both nationally and within New

Jersey. After presenting several detailed slides, Dr. Straker-Banks described the method by which MSU plans to improve its retention rate. It is known as the "Road to Success Initiative" and it contains five elements: the articulation of the vision and goals, the provision of roadmaps, the monitoring of progress, the eliminating of roadblocks, and the keeping of the promise. Step 1 will be to communicate the vision and expectations to students and to parents. Step 2 will involve using advisement, summer and winter sessions, academic coaching, and online programs as ways to promote the Graduate in Four Years Initiative. Step 3 will consist of removing areas and obstacles that inhibit student progress. Step 4 will involve constant monitoring of student progress employing such methods as: cohort monitoring, the sending of progress updates to academic departments, the expansion of the current monitoring program that works well for students on probation, and the strengthening of the non-registered student monitoring. Step 5 will consist of continual efforts to make steps 1-4 a reality.

Senator Alvares asked about tutoring services cuts and he wondered if graduate students could be used. Dr. Straker-Banks indicated that there should be some additional tutoring support coming.

11. Negotiations Agent Liaison, Dr. David Benfield, presented the NAL report. He applauded the strong clarification of the Administration's position on Department Chairs. He noted that Local Negotiations are continuing on a regular basis and that shortly statewide bargaining will begin for a successor contract to the current one that expires on June 30, 2011.

12. The January meeting of the University Senate will focus on shared governance.

Senator John Powell suggested that major shared governance issues might be discussed via e-mail. Senator Meneghin requested that the minutes be made available before the meeting and then promptly published after being approved.

13. At 4:59 the meeting was adjourned.