

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE of *Montclair State University*

Montclair, NJ 07043

1. The September 29, 2010 meeting of the University Senate was called to order at 4:10 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, Chapel, Chatterjee, Chrite, Collins, Cutler, Cutler J, Dickinson, Gaynor, Gingerich, Howell, Kelshaw, Lemesianou, Mengara, Meneghin, Morrissey (Cottrell), Nurse, Oluwole, Oosting, Pennington, Poon, Powell, Roberts, Rodak, Sadowsky, Specchio, Sullivan, Topic, Wilson, & Wolfson.

3. The Minutes of the 9/1/10 meeting were approved with the addition of “the N.S.S.E. (National Survey of Student Engagement)” as an appositive to the term “respected national survey” in the second paragraph of item 5.

4. Under the heading of very good news Senate President Collins thanked University President Susan Cole for hosting the scholarly dinner on September 25th. Dr. Oosting, Chair of the Student Affairs Council, presented the Senate Book Award to Ms. Theresa Gruber, winner of the Senate’s essay contest on the theme of academic integrity.

Dean Howell announced the event “When is a counselor not a counselor?” 10/1/10 webinar. Dean Howell also invited members of the Senate to join the Student Assistance Team, a group that meets on Wednesday at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Its focus is proactively helping students at risk.

For the benefit of new senators and as a reminder to everyone, Senate President Collins reviewed the process used by the Senate to address an issue. Anyone with a concern may send an e-mail to the Senate President or to the appropriate Council chair. At Senate meetings any senator may contribute to the discussion. New comments are welcomed before those from senators who have spoken before.

5. Provost Gingrich provided the Report from the administration. He distributed a three page document detailing Fall enrollment and student semester hour trends from 1985 – 2009. According to Dr. Gingrich the University is reaching its undergraduate enrollment capacity. It needs to grow on the graduate side and to find other ways of delivering its services that do not depend on bricks and mortar facilities.

A discussion of classroom utilization ensued. The Provost has directed the deans to examine ways of increasing classroom utilization on Friday and Saturday. Because the Spring 2011 schedule is more or less set, it will be mainly the Fall of 2011 when increases in Friday and Saturday scheduling will occur. The Provost emphasized that there is no plan to open a Weekend College; rather it is the current parking problems that have brought the issue of classroom utilization to the fore. A discussion then began about the nature of the other strategies being employed to help alleviate parking problems. Questions were raised about the classroom inventory data and about the effect of weekend classes on students’ work schedules.

Senator Oluwole commented on the large number of inquiries at the Graduate School Open House. He noted that our Alumni seemed to be the way in which persons attending the Open House heard about our program. He then inquired about MSU utilizing some of the aggressive marketing campaigns that other universities employ such as: billboards and signs on buses. Provost Gingrich responded that the University Advancement division is responsible for marketing. Senator Lemesianou suggested that the methods that have proven successful for graduate programs at MSU in gaining numbers be shared.

Sullivan noted that other institutions are starting competing graduate programs. This led to a brief discussion of the role of the Commission on Higher Education and the various sensitivities involved in resisting the request of a member institution to open a new program.

Senator Wolfson inquired as to the number of regular classrooms in coming new buildings. The Provost said that

Finley and the new School of Business building will have many classrooms and senators may check on the university website for the details of any approved construction project.

Provost Gingrich has established the Online Program Development Team to help MSU enter the crowded market of online education. The goal will be to add additional incremental enrollment and enter new markets for our particular brand. A brief discussion followed with Senator Sullivan noting that a lot of technical expertise is required for teaching online. Senator Alvares commented that there is a lot of room for creativity in developing an online course.

6. The Senate Elections Committee was selected. It consists of senators Alvares, Lemesianou, and Rodak. Nominations are needed for vacancies in the CEHS(1) and in the CHSS(2).

7. Senator Dickinson gave the Academic Affairs Council report noting that the group will take up cyber-cheating. Campus wide dialogue

8. Senator Topic provided the Administrative Affairs report. Various parking issues and suggestions were mentioned, among them: eliminate metered spaces to make room for faculty. An adjunct only lot is coming. Lot T-1 will exist until Spring 2011 when construction of the new school of business building begins. The Auxiliary Services unit is under the Division of Student Development and Campus Life. A discussion of the cost of obtaining and replacing ID cards ensued.

Dr. Chapel was invited to speak about the status of the Bell tower Initiative. There is a new calendar for when it will go live but exact dates have not been set.

9. Senator Oosting provided the Student Affairs report. Follett manager Richard Ammerman reported that 9,800 textbooks were rented this Fall. Vice President Pennington asserted that students have saved \$385,000 over the costs of buying these same books new. Senator Dickinson commented that the registration process for a textbook rental is very simple. Senators were reminded that for students to be able to sell textbooks back, adoptions need to come in early. Senator Nurse observed that the volume of students coming in to the library seeking copies of assigned textbooks seemed to be about the same this Fall. Senator Mengara wondered if others have difficulty getting Follett to order the right number of books. He also noted that once the number is too low, it is hard to get it corrected. A complicated discussion broke out as to why there might be difficulties in the providing of books for a particular section of a course. At the end, Vice President Pennington offered to investigate the issue and to check to see if appropriate quantities are being ordered.

Senator Sullivan praised the Senate's book scholarship as a step in the right direction.

10. As the Negotiations Agent Liaison Senator Benfield reported that the Union was engaged in negotiations with the Administration over several important issues. He mentioned the coming Faculty Scholarship Program renewal deadline and the October 2nd Labor rally in Washington, D.C. as things of interest to members of the Senate.

11. Senate President Collins noted that a representative to the PCAAD alternate slot is needed. Delores McMorris has volunteered and she was approved for a term until April 2011.

12. Issues from the campus. Senator Oluwole suggested that online statistics should be separated from enrollment and classroom utilization statistics.

The Provost highly recommended the exhibition currently available at the Segal Gallery. It features the art by Will Barnett, briefly a faculty member, and by Peter Barnett a long time faculty member.

Senator Wolfson inquired about the future location of the Segal sculptures. They will be lighted and have a prominent place on the pavilion at the West end of College Hall. After a brief discussion of whether the amphitheatre sound exhibition was permanent, a motion to adjourn was offered and at 4:22 p.m. it passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. David Benfield
Recording Secretary