



1 University Senate

2 Professional Studies Building, Room 203A Rm. 3; Extension 3459

3 Minutes for Meeting #1

4 University Senate Meeting

5 Monday, 18 September 2023

6 Registration was required in advance for this Zoom meeting

7 [https://njcu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMud-ihpi4jG9ApzLugLNyM\\_44COyFseaHJ](https://njcu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMud-ihpi4jG9ApzLugLNyM_44COyFseaHJ)

8 After registering, participants received a confirmation email containing information about  
9 joining the meeting.

10 Senate Meeting Attachments are in the link below:

11 [2023 October Senate Mtg docs](#)

- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17 • The Meeting Was Called to Order by President Fran Moran at 2:02 PM
  - 18
  - 19 • There was a Zoom Polling Test and the voting worked successfully.
  - 20
  - 21 • President Moran made a motion to amend the agenda to move Announcements (Item IV)
  - 22 and University Senate President's Report (Item V) to the end of the meeting in order to
  - 23 have the guest speakers sooner.
  - 24
    - 25 ○ Motion was seconded
    - 26 ○ Motion to amend was approved by unanimous consent.
    - 27 ○ Motion for revised agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
    - 28
    - 29
  - 30 • Student Government Update. Jerimiah Yorker, the Student Government Representative,
  - 31 reported that the SGA was recruiting volunteers for Senate service and would have more
  - 32 to report at the next meeting.
  - 33
  - 34 • University President Andy Acebo Welcome Remarks. President Acebo:
    - 35
    - 36 ○ Thanked the University community for the vibrancy on campus and the successful
    - 37 student orientation and convocation. He noted the unfolding progress toward
    - 38 long-term sustainability.
    - 39 ○ Noted that in January of 2023 we had a 23 million structural operating deficit, but
    - 40 we are now anticipating a 8.1 million structural deficit through August. This is a
    - 41 major reduction of our operating deficit.
    - 42 ○ Emphasized that new revenue sources were identified and we are not just cutting
    - 43 our way out of the deficit.
    - 44 ○ Explained that there is a focus on looking closely at monetizing the ground leases.

- 1           ○ Described that tuition discounting was on the rise from 2015 up to the financial  
2           crisis. This is scholarships are being reduced and done more thoughtfully, in line  
3           with rightsizing.
- 4           ○ Previewed the “We’re Here” University marketing campaign.
- 5           ○ Highlighted engaging with departments and Senate to connect our programs with  
6           the needs for the State and that we are going to right size to an organic number  
7           and serve these students exceptionally—articulate why we are one of the best  
8           options for our students.
- 9           ○ Described the Fiscal Monitor--it is important to recognize all of the work we have  
10          already done to reduce the deficit, and continued work is critical. The monitor’s  
11          job is to oversee all fiscal operations at the University. Though he cannot  
12          affirmatively take action, he can veto actions that relate to fiscal operations.  
13          There will be a focus on benchmarks and goals for long-term sustainability of the  
14          University. The monitor is for oversight, not management. President Acebo  
15          pledged to a report back to the Senate on any of the monitor’s veto actions. The  
16          monitor can recommend more layoffs but cannot force layoffs. However, there  
17          has already been a significant amount of cuts, we should not focus on cutting our  
18          way out, but focus on the runway to sustainability. President Acebo will offer  
19          alternatives to anything draconian.
- 20          ○ President Acebo wished everyone a Happy Hispanic Heritage Month, Happy  
21          Jewish New Year and encouraged people to register and attend the October 7  
22          Open House and Homecoming
- 23
- 24          ● Ira Thor, Associate VP for University Communication and Marketing Update. Highlights  
25          were:
- 26
- 27          ○ His team oversees communications, both external and internal, media relations,  
28          marketing, branding and creative, the NJCU website, photo, video, creative and social  
29          media.
- 30          ○ “This Week at NJCU” is the weekly newsletter, please submit events.
- 31          ○ If you would like a project done, please complete the form on the website.
- 32          ○ The upcoming open house is getting a heavy marketing push.
- 33          ○ Contact his department with updated website information –send to  
34          [webupdates@njcu.edu](mailto:webupdates@njcu.edu)
- 35          ○ Social media is sharing student, faculty, and alumni news. The focus is on  
36          celebrating the student experience and student success.
- 37          ○ Please include tag the University @njcuniversity for your social media posts.
- 38
- 39          ● Dr. Christopher Shamburg, Chair of the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Mission Committee,  
40          Committee Report (attached).
- 41
- 42          ○ On behalf of the committee, Dr Shamburg Made the motion for the Senate to  
43          approve the following Mission Statement:

1           *New Jersey City University's mission is to serve a diverse student population with an*  
2           *accessible, engaging, and transformative education that focuses on the personal,*  
3           *professional, and civic development of all our students. Anchored in Jersey City,*  
4           *NJCU is committed to facilitating the socioeconomic mobility of our students, as well*  
5           *as to ethical and inclusive engagement with the communities we serve across New*  
6           *Jersey and beyond.*

- 7           ○ The discussion centered around alternatives for the term “diverse” with
- 8           suggestions such as “Hispanic Serving” or “Minority Serving.”
- 9           ○ The motion was approved 27 to 8

10

- 11       • Motion to Approve the Minutes from the May 1 and May 8 Senate Meetings

12

- 13           ○ Motion made by Fran Moran.
- 14           ○ Motion was seconded
- 15           ○ Motion passed by general consent.

16

- 17       • SACC Report

18

19       SACC met over ZOOM 7 June 2023 and the following issues were discussed:

20       Program/Department mergers:

21       Philosophy & Religion with History

22       Fitness, Exercise, Sports with Health Science

23       African and African American Studies; Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies; with  
24       Women’s and Gender Studies

25       These were all approved by SACC. We had some discussion over whether or not the mergers  
26       needed to be presented to the Board of Trustees and both President Acebo and University  
27       Counsel Monica de los Rios stated that they did not.

28       Academic Standards Committee motion on Credit Load and Overload Policy

29       Overall acceptance of the aims/goals of the motion, but we had some discussion on the  
30       details of implementation. In particular, administration requested some edits and  
31       clarification, including adding language indicating that students should abide by program  
32       restrictions on credit overload.

33       Revised General Education Program

1 Approved with no changes and limited discussion beyond celebrating the achievement and  
2 speculating on the positive impact this will have for our students and our institution.

### 3 Faculty Emeritus and Distinguished Serve Awards

4 Nominees were approved and we were assured the names would be forwarded for action at  
5 the June Board of Trustees meeting.

#### 6 • President's Report

7 At its September meeting the Board of Trustees approved the University Senate Constitution  
8 – the approved version will be on the Senate website shortly. Thank you to everyone who  
9 worked to get it enacted. We will have the new version uploaded to the Senate website by the  
10 end of the week.

11 Among the changes we adopted, one of the most significant is the inclusion of adjunct  
12 faculty. Our Elections committee convenes this week and they'll be charged with developing  
13 the election guidelines for the new seat and we hope to have those seats filled in time for the  
14 October meeting. If you have adjunct faculty members in your department, let them know the  
15 call will be forthcoming.

16 Speaking of committees, we do have vacancies on a number of committees. Please see the  
17 list of Senate committees in the SharePoint Link. If you or any of your colleagues are  
18 interested in serving on one of the committees, please send your name to the Senate office.

19 As of now we do know we need more members on the Committee on Instructional  
20 Technology

21 It does not matter what college/school you are from.

22 Faculty & Professional Staff Affairs Committee needs a COE Rep.

23 Graduate Studies Committee a CPS rep is needed

24 Planning Development & Budget Committee COE and CPS need to be represented

25 Also, remember that individuals may only serve on one standing committee at a time  
26 (excluding the Senate Executive Committee). So memos will be going out to those of you  
27 who are serving on more than one standing committee asking which committee you want to  
28 remain on and we'll announce calls to fill those vacancies at the October meeting.

29 We are working on updating the Senators list of departments remaining and department  
30 mergers so that we may have the accurate names of who will be representing the departments  
31 and how many new Senator-at-Large seats we will have to create. At this point, the Board of  
32 Trustees has approved two mergers (Philosophy & Religion with History; and Fitness,  
33 Exercise, and Sports with Health Science). So we will have 2 additional at large seats. Once

1 again, I'll be charging the Elections Committee to work out the logistics for those elections.  
2 Spread the word to your colleagues to look for the call. Once the Board approves the African  
3 and African American Studies; Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies; with  
4 Women's and Gender Studies we will add 2 additional at large seats but for now each of  
5 those programs/departments retains its individual senator.

6 On behalf of the Senate Executive Committee I want to extend a warm welcome Neida  
7 Jarana Perez as the student representative to the SEC and to Jeremiah Yorker as the SGA  
8 Senate Chairperson. Students will be added to the committees as soon as SGA forwards  
9 along the names. When the list is finalized, it will be uploaded to the Senate website.

10 We have funds now and have ordered a plaque for the The Joe Riotta Award. We still need  
11 to discuss with Administration a location to display the award, we were leaning to the Gothic  
12 Lounge, the pre-COVID/pre-ZOOM location of Senate meetings. Donna Piscopo, our  
13 intrepid

14 Senate secretary, assures me that certificates will be sent shortly to the current recipients of  
15 this award:

16 Joe Moskowitz

17 Gloria Boseman

18 Cynthia Vazquez

19 Chris Shamburg

20 And I want to thank her for her hard work and diligence in making this happen.

21 Finally, I would like to offer 2 motions from the Senate Executive Committee. .At our last  
22 SEC meeting we discussed the Memorial Plaques in John J. Raines plaza. Over the past few  
23 years a number of my longtime colleagues have passed. Last fall I walked over to the plaza to  
24 pay respects and noticed that the plaques have not been updated since 2019. I contacted the  
25 administration then about adding new names to the memorial, but presumably more urgent  
26 matters arose and nothing has changed.

27 Motion made by the Senate Executive Committee:

28 *The University Senate requests that the administration update the memorial plaques*  
29 *dedicated to full time faculty and staff who have died while in service to the Institution to*  
30 *include all who have passed since 2019; in addition, we request that the update include a*  
31 *plaque for Lewis Seagull to honor his work leading our adjunct faculty. We request that*  
32 *public ceremony be help when the plaques are unveiled.*

33 Motion approved by unanimous consent.

1

2 Motion made by the Senate Executive Committee

3 *Apoin*t Mingshan Zhang as Senate Parliamentarian.

4 Motion approved by unanimous consent.

5

6 • Motion to Adjourn made by Venessa Garcia

7

8 ○ Motion was seconded

9 ○ Approved by Unanimous Consent

10

11 • Meeting adjourned at 4:16PM

12

13 Respectfully submitted,

14 Christopher Shamburg, Ed.D.

15 October 6, 2023

16