



University Senate
Professional Studies Building, 203A rm. 3

MINUTES OF MEETING
October 18, 2021 – Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Presiding: Dr. Fran Moran, University Senate President

DEPARTMENTS PRESENT: A. Harry Moore, Harriet Phillip; Accounting, Lukas Helikum; African/ Afro American Studies, Sonya Donaldson; Biology, Anthony Esposito; Chemistry, Chitra Narayanan; Computer Science, Moitrayee Chatterjee; Counseling Education, Grace Wambu; Criminal Justice, Bill Calathes; Early Childhood Ed., Basanti Chakraborty; Economics, Andres Bossie; Educational Leadership, Adele Macula; ; Educational Technology, Tracy Amerman; Elementary/Secondary, Vanashri Nargund; English, Barbara Hildner; ; ESL, Anne Mabry; Finance, Zhimin Wang; Dept. of Earth & Environmental Science, Hun Bok Jung; Fire Science, Walter Nugent; Fitness, Exercise and Sports, Manuela Caciula; Health Sciences, Erin O'Neill; Latin American Studies, Virginia Ochoa-Winemiller; Library, Min Chou; Literacy Education, Michelle Rosen; Management, EunSu Lee; Marketing, Serdar Yayla; Mathematics, Gunhan Caglayan; Media Arts, Joel Katz; Dept. of Multicultural Ed., Vesna Radanovic-Kocic; Dept. of World Languages & Cultures, Marcelo Fuentes; Music, Dance & Theatre, Robert Prowse; Nursing, Donna Ho-Shing; Philosophy/Religion, Sabine Roehr; Political Science, Joseph Moskowicz; Professional Security Studies, Richard Cosgrove; Psychology, Peri Yuksel; Sociology/ Anthropology, Max Herman; Special Education, Zandile Nkabinde; Women's & Gender Studies, Jennifer Musial.

DEPARTMENTS ABSENT: Alumni, Jane McClellan; Art, Hugo Bastidas; Physics, Chris Herbert;

SENATORS-AT-LARGE PRESENT: Michael Bell, Meriem Bendaoud, Gloria Boseman, Marilyn Ettinger, Venessa Garcia, Hanae Haouari, Fran Moran, Christopher Shamburg, Carol Shansky, Rubina Vohra, Yufeng Wei.

SENATORS-AT-LARGE ABSENT: None.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SENATORS-AT-LARGE PRESENT: Alison Maysilles, Debra McClary, Ruth Ortiz, Cynthia Vazquez.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SENATORS-AT-LARGE ABSENT: none.

STUDENT SENATORS PRESENT: Ruth Diegue

STUDENT SENATORS ABSENT:

STUDENT SENATORS-AT-LARGE PRESENT: Salvatore Cardaci, Khadija Diop, Laney Fox, Crystal Genthe.

STUDENT SENATORS-AT-LARGE ABSENT: None



University Senate Meeting
Monday, 18 October 2021
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Minutes

All attachments are inked below and are here:

<https://tinyurl.com/the4f5e2>

Fran Moran, Senate President, noted that the Chat function was disabled to try to get it to mimic more closely the way an actual meeting is, without having sidebar conversations throughout a meeting while somebody's speaking on the floor.

- I. **Test Zoom Voting:** Do you eat dinner before six o'clock? The test was successful.
- II. **Motion to Approve** the University Senate Agenda. Max Herman made a motion to adjust the agenda to include maintaining zoom meetings, it was seconded, and passed. The agenda as amended was approved by unanimous consent.
- III. **Motion to Approve** the University Senate Meeting Minutes of the September 27, 2021 Senate Meeting. The minutes were approved without objection.
After approval Ann Mabry requested corrections to the minutes:
 1. The amount of money in the motion that was changed for spending on RPK should be from 335 to 315.
 2. And second of all, could you please put in what the actual breakdown of the vote was for the no confidence vote. 30 to 23.
The minutes were not approved with corrections.
- IV. **Announcements**
 - All the documents needed for today's meeting are up in the Dropbox.
 - There's a fundraiser going on for the NJCU athletics.
 - As of October 7, 2021, we are now a tobacco free campus.
 - For our students: On behalf of the Office of Student Affairs pre-college programs are back at NJCU. To learn more please go to the website or see the email from September 28th.
 - The Council of Opportunity in Education and the Center for First Generation Student Success. will celebrate the successes of first generation college students on November, 8 which is National First Generation Day. For further info, contact M Christina Rolon at mrolon@NJCU.edu.
 - There are a lot of arts programs going on right now from our outstanding folks at the music, dance, and theater program. COVID protocols are in place. Please check the website for the schedule.

V. University Senate President's Report: Fran Moran

- SACC Update
 - The Senate is an advisory body to the SACC, which is the Senate Administration Coordinating Committee, is where we offer that advice, where we say to administration, here's what we think we should do. That body is a non-voting body decisions made are those that the administration makes after receiving our input.
 - A SACC meeting was held in the Gothic Lounge on 14 October, with the resent no confidence motion as the sole item of discussion. The meeting ran close to two hours and the discussion was at times, animated, emotional, intense, but always civil and I think ultimately productive. Everyone recognized the severity and significance of the vote. The members of the SEC and I expressed Senate frustration at the communication breakdowns that underlie much of the sentiments captured in the motion. Administration representatives expressed frustration that attempts to communicate seem to go nowhere, and then went on to describe the structure, the debt, the general history of the foundation and the university's real estate initiatives, and the scope and parameters of the RPK study. We noted that even setting aside potential and accuracies in the body of the motion, the fact remains that a majority of the senators voted their lack of confidence in the administration. Administration noted that they enjoy the full support of the Board of Trustees and they have been working tirelessly during these difficult times to protect and promote our students and the university. As the discussion continued I think we all conceded some mutual responsibility in the current state of the campus climate. We also recognize that we are deeply committed to our students the university into our mission, and that that commitment provides the foundation to rebuild or repair relationships and restore a healthy campus climate. That climate will obviously not change overnight, but we did agree on smaller steps to get us moving in the right direction. Specifically to improve the communication issues, we agreed to foster closer working relationships between the Senate and Administration, University Senate and SGA, and SGA and Administration. These steps include first a commitment from administration that ex officio members of the various Senate committees will attend and participate regularly in committee business, an effort in Senate committees to explore developing bylaws to clarify and define the roles of ex officio members. The more robust information exchange between Senate administration and SGA by inviting members of the administration to present at Senate and SGA meetings, and to answer questions from the respective bodies assembled, and a commitment to foster and maintain a climate of respect and civility.
- New SGA Report
 - An SGA report will now be given at the Senate meeting starting today.
- Motion to approve Students to Senate Committees
 - The SEC has a motion to approve students to the following Senate committees: Academic Standards Committee: Amirah Kitchen, Academic Support & Services Committee: Crystal Genthe, Curriculum Instruction: Diana Chica, Graduate Studies: Caitlin Costello, Faculty & Professional Staff Affairs: Khadija Diop, Planning & Development Budget Committee: Bassimo Sadeu, and Student Affairs Committee: Ruth Diegue. So without objection is it okay for those folks join those respective committees?
The Motion was approved by general consensus.
All right. We also have a new part-time Student Senator-at-Large, Diana Chica and our Graduate Student Senator is Caitlin Castello.
- Vacancies on Senate Committees

- We have quite a few vacancies on some important Senate Committees so I want to read through those really quick. And if you have colleagues or if you're interested, it'd be great to step up, particularly from the College of Education. So on Curriculum instruction, there's two seats open, we need a COE rep, and then another faculty member from anywhere. On the Election Committee also is two seats, we need a Professional Staff member and a faculty member from anywhere. Faculty & Professional Staff Affairs, we have three seats, we need one from Arts and Sciences, Education and Professional Studies. And on the Student Affairs Committee we need a COE rep. GCAP, we need somebody from the COE and, GECC we need somebody from the COE. You do not need to be a Senator to join these committees.
- COVID Update
 - No one is available to provide an update today, but you can refer to the website. The link was provided in the documents. Jodi Bailey and Andy Acebo will give the update in November.
- Updates
 - The Provost Office is working on revising and coming out with a current faculty handbook. Our last revision was done in 2009. The Senate had appointed an ad hoc committee to begin the process, they turned over a report, and now it's moving along.
 - Last year we voted on a motion to change the late withdrawal deadlines, and those have been implemented they're later in the semester, I believe two weeks now, and that's in the fall and the spring semesters.
 - We also had a motion related to a proposed book textbook deal where students would have to purchase their books, automatically as part of the registration. That was shelved and the motion we wanted it to be held off and delayed and it was.
 - There are some issues with CIM and we brought those to the attention of administration, in particular, with some of the changes in the Gen Ed's committee structure and then also, for example the addition of the community engaged learning committee, we need some extra spots on, the forums and adjustments to the forum.
 - We wanted to congratulate Sonia Donaldson, for a grant. So, the NJCU was part of a \$3 million Mellon grant on Digital Ethnic Futures consortium. Dr Donaldson is the co PI with Salem State University is the lead, Texas Southern University and Cal State University Fullerton also part of the consortium. This grant supports the growth, development, and long term sustainability of digital ethics studies at regional public institutions by supporting the development of models that embed digital ethnic studies into institutional structure. So congratulations.
- Next we have the new edition to the President's reports, that's coming from our SGA, the student rep is Lanie Fox and she'll give that report next Lanie The floor is yours.
 - I'm actually going to yield the floor to Thyquel who's our SGA president to give the SGA report.
- SGA Report: Thyquel Halley, SGA President
 - Thyquel greeted the Senate stating that he was very excited and eager to work with the Senate and Administration to build a better, stronger, and more dynamic NJCU..

- The Student Government Association Executive Board will be meeting with the VP of Student Affairs, Julie Bailey, on a monthly basis, and bimonthly with the Provost.
 - Elections for the freshman class president on October 28th and 29th. There is a full and active sophomore class. There is now a general class president and vice president and currently looking to get a secretary, treasurer, and public relations person. There is a senior class president and vice president, also looking for a secretary, treasurer, and public relations member. An induction is coming up. There are interested students.
 - The SGA will be working with interns and the Provost office to obtain insurance.
 - The GSUB committee will be formed to work on revitalizing GSUB to be more student focused and student centered.
 - The SGA website has been updated, go to NJCU.edu on the Student Affairs page, there is a tab for SGA. The Public Relations Committee had 2 meetings and ensuring that all the information about SGA is on the website.
 - The SGA VP of Internal Affairs has met with Ronald Early in First transit about shuttle questions and concerns. The meetings have been productive. There will be an upcoming survey on students' impression during and after the meeting with R. Early.
 - There will be a survey on gourmet dining food service. The SGA has a meeting with the Gourmet dining team to discuss improvement of the food quality and food service to students.
 - The SGA has given \$1,352 to send, 11 students to a conference this year. The SGA also did a full sponsorship of the Student Activities Board of \$20 to \$50, and most recently a co-sponsorship with Athletics to help fund the Green Army of \$10,000.
 - The SGA is always on the side of students, what's going to be best for the students, and that the students get access to the best education and support services.
- **Student Senators Statement on Vote of No Confidence in President Sue Henderson:** Laney Fox
 - I would like to emphasize that as Student Senators we understand that we represent the student body.
 - On September 27 2021 Senate held a meeting and passed a vote of no confidence. The vote of no confidence is a formal vote that a specific people group of people vote on to show that they no longer support a leader and want to move them. This passed with a 30 to 23 vote and meant that there was no confidence in President Henderson. The reasons for this vote of no confidence includes poor fiscal mismanagement, a lack of transparency, a lack of attunement to your student population, and her violation with the principles of shared governance as articulated by the American Association of University Professors. On October 6, 2021 your student senators met, we discussed how the senate meeting was unproductive and didn't address questions that were asked instead of being a debate, it was a conversation about what each person felt. As students as we believe that there needs to be change. However, we do not support a vote of no confidence at the moment. At the meeting it was stated that we are \$150 million in debt, it is important to note that President Anderson said we were already \$100 million in debt when she became president in August 2012. Why is our university taking on so much debt, where and what is the financial plan to get us out of this debt, how much debt does University take on before they claim bankruptcy? Regarding financial situations the blame cannot be placed on one individual in the university setting, all transactions are approved by board of trustees, the multimillion dollar building extensions are approved by the Board of Trustees. Who is there to keep the Board of Trustees in check? Getting rid of President Henderson doesn't solve this problem.

At the moment the Board of Trustees have not released a formal statement regarding our position on the vote of no confidence. Your student senators are trying to find answers to these questions, there's a miscommunication happening regarding extra expenses, RPK, debt, and building extensions. We're looking forward to communicating with faculty, staff, and students to help find a solution and gain transparency on decisions being made that are affecting our university.

- That was our statement that was sent out of our Senate Executive Committee as well as our SGA council meeting.
- Discussion
 - Of SACC report centered around the response of Administration and the hope that Administration will work on responding to all the points that were raised.
 - Max Herman noted that someone did a great job with the Gothic Rack where you get clothing for students who need interviews. He donated and encouraged his peers to do the same. However, the signs up all over campus don't tell where it's actually located so Max asked that the signs be updated to add this information to tell students where they can get clothes for upcoming business.
 - Chris Shamburg noted that the 12 points going around were a different item and was not part of the Senate Resolution.

VI. Motions:

- Max Herman proposed a motion that the Senate meetings would continue to be zoom meetings, through the remainder of the fall semester. Seconded by Bill Calathes. **The motion passed**, 52:8 in favor of the motion.
- On behalf of: Teresa Spataro proposed a motion to limit the RPK update and discussion to no more than 15 minutes in total, respectfully, we can't continue to bump committee reports or progress because we keep running out of time. At the meantime to satisfy our enrollment and student success depends on the functioning Senate addressing academic responsibilities. Seconded by Rubina Vohra. Discussion centered around who proposed the motion and the time limit of 15 or 20 minutes. **Motion passed** 38:19 in favor of the motion. Fran Moran indicated this was for the report, not the discussion.

VII. RPK Update:

RPK Senate members: Dr. Bill Calathes, Ms. Ivelisse Cruz, Dr. Max Herman, Prof. Joel Katz, Dr. EunSu Lee, Dr. Anne Mabry, Ms. Debra McClary, Dr. Lilliam Rosado, Dr. Rubina Vohra

- Report: **Max Hermon**
 - First of all, they skipped two meetings over the summertime without providing a reason I assume they were busy doing their work but the Steering Committee did not meet for two consecutive meetings during the summertime reconvened September 22.
 - They did some administrative services evaluation. They need to improve the use of technology of software that does not coordinate with other systems like EAB, not working with PeopleSoft and infosylum. They really want to try and streamline the use of technology so that we can be more productive.

- The main thrust of the meeting was about academics. They talked about how programs are being evaluated. Based on admits, enrollment, yield, and graduation rates, size, & growth. Max Hermon shared a PowerPoint showing where some programs were in the evaluation process. They have not made any specific recommendations yet about programs, about what should be taught or consolidated. The recommendations that they're going to make are based on quantitative data.
- Please see document link below:

RPK Doc from Anne Mabry – Senate Meeting – October 18, 2021

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13BClu5NSnxLpR2tmxp90nYOBbhLaGvHp/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110693129400293919277&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

- **Recommendations to RPK:**
 - Talk to the rank and file members of the staff to find out how they're actually performing.
 - Conduct an institutional ethnography where they ask the staff about issues that need to be addressed and to see how they're addressed as you walk up the levels of players of the administration.
 - Do focus groups with students.
- **RPK's response:** Suggestions are beyond the scope of their study.
- **Discussion** centered around the RPK metrics, chart seems to undermine departments, no administrative evaluation by RPK, Senate should ask RPK to meet with the chairs of departments, give an example where their work resulted in better learning outcomes and increased enrollment, and the impact on the community of graduation success.

VIII. University Senate Committee Reports: Please go to link at the beginning of the minutes to see posted reports. Only actionable items will be reported below.

- **General Education Committee on Assessment & Policy:** Ms. Theresa Spataro, Chairperson *(Attachment #1)*
 - The GECAP, GECC, and the General Education Director proposed the following motion: *(Attachment #2)*

Whereas on April, 20th, 2020, NJCU's University Senate voted to revise the General Education Program by 1) reducing the credit requirements by nine, and 2) replacing the requirement that students take two courses in each mode of inquiry with the requirement that students take two courses in each student learning outcome;

Whereas the criteria used to evaluate new General Education course proposals have yet to be updated to reflect these changes;

Whereas the criteria used to evaluate proposals to change existing General Education courses have yet to be updated to reflect these changes;

Whereas the General Education Curriculum Committee needs further time to propose new criteria for such reviews to the Senate;

Whereas any approved revisions to these criteria must be programmed into the Course Leaf Software;

Whereas General Education courses are currently being evaluated in the absence of updated criteria.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

1. Evaluations at all stages in the approval process of a new General Education course submitted before January, 1st, 2022 shall be conducted using the criteria and processes that existed for such evaluations on April, 19th, 2020.
 2. Evaluations at all stages in the approval process of a revision to a pre-existing General Education course submitted before January, 1st, 2022 shall be conducted using the criteria and processes that existed for such evaluations on April, 19th, 2020.
 - No Second needed. No discussions made.
 - Motion passed.
- **Community Engaged Learning Committee:** Dr. Jennifer Musial, Chairperson
 - Additional note: anybody who's interested in joining the next cohort of the faculty fellows on civic engagement is invited to contact Dr. Saul Peterson, whose email address is, saul@njcampuscompact.org. The next Faculty Fellows meeting will be convened for new folks to come in, in November. *(Attachment #3)*
 - **Curriculum & Instruction Committee:** Dr. Michael Rotenberg-Schwartz, Chairperson
 - Comment from Joe Moskowitz for the committee to propose to the Senate a process to identify duplication of courses. *(Attachment #4)*
 - **Graduate Studies Committee:** Dr. Amit Mokashi & Dr. Xiaodi Zhu, Co-Chairs
 - Approved the Economics for Educators program from the School of Business.
 - The Senate approved the Economics for Educators program by general consensus. *(Attachment #5)*
 - **Planning, Development & Budget Committee:** Dr. Joyce Wright, Chairperson
 - The first 30 minutes in the November meeting will be to develop a guide, a rubric, and a table for those that are submitting budgets via CIM.

- Joe Moskowitz: Can the committee report back to the Senate if the textbook purchasing system problems have been resolved benefiting the students, but if not, consider a resolution, delaying it even past the spring semester. President Henderson said, Aaron Aska or Jim White will attend all PD&B committee meetings. Verified by Fran Moran. *(Attachment #6)*

IX. New Business

- Gloria Boseman emailed about course changes and defining what makes a significant change or substantive change to course. Fran Moran noted that he would see if C&I and Grad studies committees can work on that request.
- Chris Shamburg responding to Joe Moskowitz, clarified that the motion was amended until SGA and Senate approval for the textbook plan, so it does not need to be extended for a year, it's pending approval. The administration would have to present the proposal to the Senate and SGA and it would have to be approved by the Senate and then move forward. Joe Moskowitz requested this item be on the agenda for the next Senate meeting to find out what's going on, and then the Senate office refer this to the SGA, to see where it stands.
- Zandile Nkabinde requested information from Joyce Wright how to get the Special Ed. Secondary program approved. She was told to either send the committee an explanation or attend the meeting to so the committee can further understand and move the program forward.
- Gloria Boseman noted that Laney Fox can express the SGA's concerns about the Board of Trustees when the Board meets in February.

Fran Moran called for the adjournment of the Senate meeting. Seconded by Joe Moskowitz. The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Ho-Shing, PhD.
Senate Secretary.