

**University Senate**

**Professional Studies Building, 203A rm. 3**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**September 21, 2020 – Via Zoom**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Presiding:** Dr. Christopher Shamburg, University Senate President

**DEPARTMENTS PRESENT:** A. Harry Moore, Darlene Britt; Accounting, Lukas Helikum; Art, Brian Gustafson; Biology, Ethan Prosen; Chemistry, Chitra Narayanan; Computer Science, Mort Aabdollah ; Counseling Education, Grace Wambu; Criminal Justice, Bill Calathes; Early Childhood Ed., Basanti Chakraborty; Economics, Ivan Steinberg; Educational Leadership, Christine Harrington; Educational Technology, Chris Carnahan; Elementary/Secondary, Vanashri Nargund; English, Barbara Hildner; ESL, Anne Mabry; Finance, Zhimin Wang; Dept. of Earth & Environmental Science, Hun Bok Jung; Fitness, Exercise and Sports, Manuela Caciula; Health Sciences, Erin O’Neill; History, Jacob Zumoff; 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, Redouane Khamar Music, Dance & Theatre, Robert Prowse; Nursing, Donna Ho-Shing; Philosophy/Religion, Sabine Roehr; Political Science, Joseph Moskowitz; Physics, Chris Herbert; Professional Security Studies, Richard Cosgrove; Psychology, Peri Yuksel; Sociology/Anthropology, Max Herman; Women’s & Gender Studies, Jennifer Musial.

**DEPARTMENTS ABSENT:** African/Afro American Studies, Alumni, Jane McClellan; Fire Science, Walter Nugent; Special Education, Zandile Nkabinde.

**SENATORS-AT-LARGE PRESENT:** Meriem Bendaoud, Deborah Bennett, 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:**

**STUDENT SENATORS ABSENT:**

**STUDENT SENATORS-AT-LARGE PRESENT:** Ricky Cruz.

**STUDENT SENATORS-AT-LARGE ABSENT:**

**Meeting #** 1

**September 21, 2020**

**Via Zoom**

Meeting called to order by President Shamburg at 2:07 PM

**Welcome Message from Senate President**

Welcome to the first meeting of the 2020-2021 Academic Year. Donna and I are broadcasting to you live from the Gothic Lounge. Please note a few things—I am recording this meeting, so we can transcribe for the minutes. Also, Only Senators get to vote. I will confirm that after the meeting, and if there is a change in the vote due to a non-Senator’s vote, I will let you know. That was not a problem last year.

**I. Test of Zoom Voting Successful**

**II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

The Senate President made a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**III. Approval of the May 11, 2020 Minutes**

The Senate President made a motion to approve the May 11, 2020 minutes by unanimous consent. There was an objection regarding the attendance. A comment was made that the attendance did not seem accurate. Dr. Shamburg said that attendance is taken from the Zoom registrations and that Donna and he would double check the list and make any corrections.

Noting that possible emendation, the Senate President made a motion to approve the May 11, Minutes, subject to change after a review of the Zoom registration.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

**IV Announcements**

There are three announcements:

**Two Administrative Search Committees**

The Provost has informed me that she is reviving the search for the Dean of the College of Education and the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education. We had elections last year for representatives, and the Provost’s office will be reaching out to those people soon.

**STEM Grant**

Congratulations to NJCU and Dr. John Grew for receiving a nearly three-million-dollar US Department of Education Title 5 Grant--On PACE for STEM Success: Personal, Academic & Career Enhancement at an Urban Public HSI. This program will run from 2020-2025.

**Community Engaged Learning**

Community Engaged Learning is a well-established, high-impact, active-learning teaching strategy that uses project-based learning.  The President’s Faculty Fellows Program on Community-Engaged Learning at NJCU began in Fall 2017 as an effort to re-design and create new courses that connect students to the broader community outside the classroom.  The Faculty Fellows come from a broad spectrum of disciplines and are gaining momentum in 2020-2021.  Be on the look-out for a re-distributed faculty survey, so they can learn more about any courses you teach that involve a Field (off-campus) component.  Additionally, they invite anyone interested in joining Faculty Fellows for 2020-2021 to email Dr. Saul Petersen at [spetersen1@njcu.edu](https://webmail.exchange.njcu.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=TDGzoQr1kD0GPfwPdXp4LtI06QKJmi88e8mtnAQNdlMl_xjc4VvYCA..&URL=mailto%3aspetersen1%40njcu.edu); alternately, you can leave your contact information in the survey that will come soon.

**V. University Senate President’s Report**

**Executive Committee Officer Opening: Secretary**

We will have an opening for Secretary of the Senate. The Secretary is an Executive Officer and sits on the Senate Executive Committee. If you are interested in the position, please send your name to the Senate Office by Friday September 25th If there is more than one nomination, we will have an election.

**Nomination of Parliamentarian—Prof. Gita Sharma**

The Senate President made a motion to appoint Prof. Gita Sharma Senate Parliamentarian for the 2020-21 Academic Year.

The motion was passed by unanimous consent.

**Change of Date October Senate Meeting**

As a reminder, due to the rescheduling of the Middle States Visit, there is a change in the date of our October meeting from Monday October 19 to Wednesday October 21 2PM

**NJCU Senate and Combating Systemic Racism**

The Senate should have an important role in combatting systemic racism. This would work well if we worked with existing initiatives such as the Women’s Center, BAAFSSO, and the Council on Hispanic Affairs. We will discuss the Senate’s charge and role with these groups and develop tangible resolutions for the Senate.

**SACC Report**

The Executive Committee met with the administration on May 12th for the Senate Administration Coordinating Committee (SACC). Below is a summary of the meeting.

***Program Approvals***

We agreed to approve the two programs that passed the Senate:

1. MBA with Specialization in Supply Chain and Maritime Management

2. MBA with Specialization in Healthcare Management

***Amend the Graduate Grading Policy for Spring 2020***

The Senate’s recommendation to amend the graduate grading policy for Spring 2020 was agreed to by the by the administration.

***Calendar Committee***

The administration agreed to the Senate’s resolution on a University Calendar Committee.

***Meetings and COVID Response***

The resolution regarding the COVID was discussed. The administration highlighted the difficulties with the line requiring the Senate and Union representatives to be at “all” meetings. For example, the Provost might meet with someone from online learning or the President might meet with the Governor. Our consensus was that common sense and a spirit of inclusion would prevail.

***Committee for Retention of Administrators***

We discussed the motion for Senate representation on a committee for the retention of administrators, as per the Constitution. The President said that she would discuss with the Board of Trustees.

***Certificate in Personal Financial Education***

On May 18th the SACC approved the Certificate in Personal Financial Education via email.

\*\*\*This is the end of the SACC Report\*\*\*

**Members Needed for Two Standing Committees**

After the May reorganization meeting we had vacancies on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee and the Planning, Budget, and Development Committee. We have two volunteers to fill them.

The Senate President made a motion to appoint Jale Aldemir from Early Childhood Education for the Planning Budget and Development Committee and Nelda Ephraim from The Nursing Department to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee.

The motion passed by unanimous consent.

We still need a COE member for the C and I committee.

**Covid and the Senate**

I am asking the Instructional Technology Committee and the Academic Support and Services Committee to focus on the university’s response to COVID. The IT Committee’s focus is on online learning and classroom technologies. The Academic Support and Services Committee is supporting and supplemental resources.

**MBA with a Specialization in Business Analytics**

The last item on the report is an action item—the approval of the MBA with a Specialization in Business Analytics. This is on the agenda and the full program was distributed to the Senate and the university community. This program got stuck in committee longer than 30 days, so as per policy it is moving the full Senate.

The Senate President made a motion to approve the MBA with a Specialization in Business Analytics.

The motion is seconded.

There is no discussion.

The motion passed.

**Middle States Update**

Dr. Fran Moran reminded the Senate that the Middle States Accreditation Visit is coming up. It is October 18 to the 21st. The visit will be virtual due to COVID. It will all be done via Zoom. Most of the Senate Committees are tentatively scheduled to meet with the team, and it looks like that will be Monday October 19th. There will also be an open session for students and for faculty. We are waiting for confirmation from Middle States. If you have not done so, please read the updated self study and the addendum. I am resharing the link in the chat (<https://www.njcu.edu/about/office-president/middle-states-commission-higher-education>)

**Question on Middle States Update**

A member noted that Union has requested a meeting with the visiting Middle States team, which has occurred with other universities. What is the status of this for NJCU’s visit? Dr. Moran responded that the meetings are decided by the Middle States team, and that this request was related to the head of the Middle States team.

**Questions on the President’s Report**

A question was asked if there is a prohibition on multiple members from the same department on the Executive Committee. The Senate President said that there was not. That is a rule for standing committees in the Constitution, but it does not apply to the Executive Committee.

There was a question if the University was identifying positive cases on campus. The Provost responded that the University’s Safety Committee is producing an infographic. To her knowledge there has only been one case on campus. This is anecdotal, and she recommends waiting for the infographic.

A question came up on the SACC Report about the Senate involvement in the evaluation of the reappointment of administrators. It was noted that President Henderson had previously responded that she would discuss this with the Board of Trustees. When will she report back to the Senate on this? The Senate President noted that he did not follow up with a timeline, but will ask her the next time he speaks to her.

A question came up regarding the request of the Senate Executive Committee to meet with the Board of Trustees—has there been any updates on that? The Senate President said that there has not been, but he will review and follow up on that.

A question came up about the item in the President’s Report on combating system racism. The statement was that the Senate will work with people who are already do this work. A participant suggested that the Senate actually think about what is suggested in the phrase ‘combatting system racism’, and that it is ‘systems’. The idea of working with specific groups is to essentially place the responsibility and the burden of fixing a systemic issue on a very small group of people in organizations that are already under resourced. From the perspective of African American Studies, and the Lee Hagan Center, we are woefully under supported, under resourced, and undervalued. We are a very small percentage of the population who are tasked with a heavy labor load. It would be great to hear from the Senate--if there are mechanisms at work or planned to actually actively engage with combating systemic racism, rather than simply placing that burden on to already overburdened people.

The Senate President said the Senate is basically an open-source operating system where any idea can come to the fore. One Senator with a motion gets it seconded, and it gets voted on. So if there was an idea or a policy proposal, it just has to come up at a meeting. The agenda comes from the membership. The idea of working with groups that are already doing the work is to avoid a top-down approach. I would like to be respectful and listen to people who were doing the work before we take a position ourselves. What the Senate can offer is explaining the scope of the Senate and what we can do and how we can get there together. The Senate President said that he agreed with the spirit of what was said, and it’s not his indent to push the work off on anyone else. A member added that there were Senate and University committees that could look at the 10-Point letter from BAAFSSO and address these issues. Another member mentioned to keep this issue in mind during the strategic planning process and the Middle States visit.

**Planning, Development and Budget Committee Report (Attachment #1)**

Dr. Joyce Wright, Chairperson

**Approval of BS in Biochemistry (Action Item)**

Motion to approve BS in Biochemistry.

Discussion: it was previously noted that the program inaccurately lists 3-credit calculus 1 and calculus 2 courses that have not been offered in years, and they should not be a part of the program. They are now 4-credit courses. The program is 120 credits and this change would increase the required calculus courses from 6 to 8 credits with a reduction in elective credits. The program proposer noted that he tried to update that but was prohibited by CIM. The Senate President suggested that if this was the only concern, that the program could be approved with an amendment to replace the two 3-credit calculus courses with the 4-credit updated courses and reduce the elective credits by 2, so the program will still be 120 credits. An addendum will be submitted to the Senate Office and will accompany the program. The Senate President will share the addended program with the Senate.

The Senate President Made an amended motion to approve the Biochemistry program pending an update that includes the 4-credit calculus classes and a subsequent reduction the elective credits.

Motion to amend was passed by unanimous consent.

The amended motion passed.

**Question on the Planning, Development and Budget Committee Report**

There was a question about the attendance of the committee members. There is not an administrator’s name on the report, though the Chief Financial Officer is an ex officio member of the committee. The committee responded that CFO did not attend the meeting.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Accelerated Program**

Dr. Helen Friedland‎, Dr. Ansley W. LaMar, Dr. Zui C. Lee, Ms. Ruth Ortiz Dr. Joyce Wright

Policy for Accelerated Dual Degree Programs **(Action Item, Attachment #2)**

Accelerated Programs State Comparison Chart **(Information Item, Attachment #3)**

Course Numbering and 500-Level Course Policy revised **(Action Item, Attachment #4)**

Motion to accept Dr. Ansley LaMar’s Minority Report **(Information Item, Attachment #5)**

Motion passed by unanimous consent

Motion to approve the Proposed Policy for Accelerated Dual Degree Programs

**Discussion**

The Policy for Accelerated Dual Degree programs is designed to give students a seamless experience from undergraduate and graduate degrees. Highlights of the proposal are: the use of 500 level courses to bridge the experience between undergraduate and graduate programs. An important rationale is to give students an experience that they want, which is especially important in a competitive market in which other nearby universities are offering these programs. Opponents of the proposal state that this will weaken academic quality, diminish the integrity of graduate degrees, and ultimately undermine efforts of quality education.

Motion to Postpone the vote until the October Senate Meeting Made by Ricky Cruz, Student Government President.

Motion seconded.

The motion passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by the Senate President.

Motion seconded.

The motion passed.

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:10 PM**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Christopher Shamburg, Ed.D.**

**October 10, 2020**

**Attachment #1 -** PD&B Report

**Attachment #2** – Policy for Accelerated Dual Degree Programs

**Attachment #3** – Accelerated Program State Comparison Chart

**Attachment #4** – Course Numbering and 500-Level Course Policy

**Attachment #5** – Dr. Ansley LaMar’s Minority Report