

University Senate Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024

[2024 March Senate Mtg docs](#)

Meeting called to order by President Fran Moran 2:03 pm

**Motion to Approve the University Senate Meeting Agenda
Motion Passed by General Consent**

**Motion to Approve the University Senate Meeting Minutes of the February 12,
2024 Meeting
Motion Passed by General Consent**

University Senate President’s Report, Dr. Fran Moran

University Update, President Andy Acebo

Highlights:

- The recent accomplishments of women’s athletics are inspiring and laudable.
- NJCU recently signed Memo of Understanding with 17 Latin American Consulate Offices where there is program alignment for NJCU to be the Hispanic Serving Institution of choice. This initiative culminated in hosting the newly elected President of Ecuador.
- The University’s alignment with organized labor is important—we hosted the New Jersey Education Association for a roundtable discussion on the current state of education. Teachers, students, faculty, and legislative leaders gathered and highlighted innovations at NJCU. We announced a partnership with NJEA regarding tuition discounts for its members.
- On the recently released monitor’s report – the University President is even more optimistic about NJCU’s future than when he started, and he was optimistic then.
- The report solidifies what we have been saying--that this place is indispensable to the higher education ecosystem—that is acknowledged in the report.
- The report makes “recommendations” to study, not mandates.
- The potential partnerships or affiliations recommended can come in different forms and would take time. Middle States has a role, our legislative delegation has a role, and our campus has a role in these decisions.
- We have and will be collaborative and have been working in these directions. The autonomy of this institution is not under siege. We are authoring our future.

- 1 • Faculty, staff, and administration hosted an incredibly well intended open
- 2 house at Harborside. There were excited and enthused parents and potential
- 3 students.
- 4 • The conversation has changed from the calamity of the past to the possibilities
- 5 of the future—a public institution of higher education--streamlining and
- 6 focusing on mission.
- 7 • The monitor lauded our efforts to sustain our mission.
- 8 • We will not be disrupted, but we will be the disruptors.
- 9 • We have been stabilized, and it's been objectively measured (Moody's re-
- 10 rating, e.g.)
- 11 • We have weathered crises before and that should embolden us. NJCU's best
- 12 chapter has yet to be written, and we will be the authors of it.

13 Questions and Answers

14 Q: When will new board members be appointed?

15 A: Nominees have been made. One has been confirmed and three others are

16 in the process. It would be respectful if these were not named yet. We now

17 have enough for a quorum. There is an additional seven million dollars in state

18 aid in the Governor's budget. The University President has met with the state

19 delegation and state legislatures, and there is traction for our cause due to our

20 recent success.

21 Q: When is the next board meeting?

22 A: It is tentatively scheduled for third Monday in April.

23 Q: Will there be a campus conversation on retention?

24 A: Those discussions have robustly taken place and the University President is

25 looking forward to continuing the conversation.

26 Q: Shared governance and healthcare have been recurring topics that you

27 emphasize, yet the Nursing Department has not been a part of this share

28 governance experience—nursing has been the recipients of information, not

29 participants in decision making. The recommendations about merging and

30 affiliations in the report sound like the trends in the healthcare field, in which

31 the nursing department has experience. How can the Nursing Department get

32 to the table?

33 A: the University President commits to meeting with the Nursing Department,

34 to be coordinated with the Dean of the College of Professional Studies and the

35 Nursing Department Chair. There are complexities with the monitor's report

36 and his skepticism about Fort Monmouth in contrast with the University

37 President's optimism about the possibilities at Fort Monmouth. Though there

38 is agreement that our focus must be on our Jersey City Campus. A

39 conversation with all stakeholders would be arranged and coordinated so

40 everyone is on the same page, including the entire nursing faculty and staff.

41 The Provost noted that there has been coordination with the Provost's office

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1 and the Nursing Department about programs. Nevertheless, the President is
2 committed to a broader meeting.

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4 Q: Could you clarify the intentions of the monitor regarding the concept of
5 merger?

6 A: The monitor explained at the press conference that he is recommending
7 that mergers, partnerships, and affiliations be considered by the Board of
8 Trustees. There is a pathway to remaining independent intuition, though it
9 would require more aid. Dying a slow death is not a strategy. The University
10 President does not see being the Jersey City Campus of Kean or Montclair as
11 a primary way forward. However, there are innovative ways to work with
12 other institutions and leverage our unique strengths. For example, we should
13 identify and build on our strengths, e.g. transfer-friendly policies, community
14 engaged learning, Hudson Connect. There are current initiatives that keep
15 moving us in that direction—for example, overhauling composition program,
16 addressing DWFs. These are ways that we can be national leaders in
17 innovation.

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19 **Motion to Approve the Course Evaluation Instrument** (Postponed until labor agreement
20 reached) (Course Evaluation Instrument in OneDrive Folder)

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22 Discussion: We should continually revise the evaluation instrument, possibly annually. Though
23 significant annual changes would undermine longitudinal data, revisions are possible as they are
24 necessary and appropriate. There is a national trend to re-examine teacher evaluations. There is a
25 distinction between teacher evaluations and course evaluations that should be noted. Students are
26 in favor of both course and teacher evaluations. Jason Martinek will be working with Rachel
27 Fester on the course evaluations.

28
29 **Motion Passed: 29/Yes 10/No**

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31 **Academic Standards Committee - Academic Integrity Policy** (This document was distributed
32 at the previous meeting as an information item to discuss among departments) (Policy in
33 OneDrive Folder)

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35 **Motion Passed by General Consent**

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37 **SEC Motions: CIM**

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39 ***Motion 1: Program Review Process***

40 *The University Senate moves that the Office of the Provost update the*
41 *program proposal forms to fully align with current AIC forms and regularly*
42 *update, publish and make accessible the latest version of the AIC Guidelines*
43 *to better ensure that proposals comply with the latest Guidelines.*

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45 **Motion passed by General Consent**
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Motion 2: 30 Day Review Policy

In March 2019, the University Senate adopted a 30-day review policy for all Senate committees. The motion reads in part: “Beginning immediately with the 2018-2019 academic year, all Senate committees have a binding timeline of thirty days to review matters that come before them and require action.” Section E of the Policy stipulates that “Clock stops during winter and summer breaks.

Winter break being defined as starting the last day of the semester until the first day of classes for the Spring semester. Summer break being defined as starting the day after graduation until the start of classes in the Fall semester”

The University Senate moves that this language be amended to read “Clock stops from December 15 to January 15 and from May 15 to September 15” Section F refines the reference to “30 days” in the policy by stipulating it refers to business days.

The University Senate moves to strike Section F from the Policy

Motion Passed by General Consent

Motion 3: Catalog Changes and CIM

After consultation with the Provost’s Office, the Senate Executive Committee moves the following:

For the purposes of the 2024/2025 University Catalog, the University Senate asks administration to adopt an expedited CIM review process where non-substantive changes can bypass Senate review but include Senate notification. The review process would then be Department -> Dean -> Provost.

These non-substantives changes would include:

Course fields in CIM

- 1. Full Course Title*
- 2. Abbreviated Course Title*
- 3. Crosslistings*
- 4. Catalog description*
- 5. Pre-requisites and co-requisites*

Program fields in CIM

- 6. Contact information*
- 7. Total credits*
- 8. Curriculum Map/Degree Map*
- 9. Degree Requirements*

Discussion: A clarification that Department Approval is the vote of the department, not the chair’s approval alone. Some context: the catalog is the official curriculum of the university. It is the basis for the degree audit. All advisement tools are based on the catalog. It is the key to many processes in the student experiences. For the last several years, there were some various

1 *methods for updating the catalog, and this is meant to update it in a coherent*
 2 *and efficient way with shared governance. General Education status and*
 3 *course credit hours are not included in non-substantive criteria. These would*
 4 *be considered substantive changes as per specific wording in the Senate*
 5 *Constitution.*

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 7 **Motion to Amend by striking out “Item 7. Total credits” was made but**
 8 **not seconded.**

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 10 **Motion Passed by General Consent**

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 12 **Academic Standards Committee Dr. Venessa Garcia** (Report in OneDrive Folder)

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 14 Discussion: There were some recent corrections regarding the motion on the proposed Grading
 15 Policies, so it was postponed to next month. The committee has been charged by the Senate
 16 President to develop a policy on Prior Experiential Credits (PEC)—these are outside of CLEP
 17 and formal transfer credits. The committee requested input on ideas and parameters on this. The
 18 committee is of the belief that there needs to be both university wide principles and department-
 19 level specifics. The Senate President noted that this is an initiative started by the administration.
 20

21 **The Committee on Community Engaged Learning, Dr. Jennifer Musial, Chairperson**
 22 (Report in OneDrive Folder)

23
 24 Motion:

25 Ask that the Provost commit \$5000 in funding to re-establish the
 26 AcCEerator program, a 3 part workshop series designed to mentor faculty
 27 members from CEL idea to CEL assignment or course re-design using Best
 28 Practices established by the CEL Faculty Fellows and CEL Senate
 29 Committee. The AcCEerator workshop series aims to adapt five existing,
 30 upcoming courses using CEL principles. The proposed AcCEerator
 31 workshop series would run in Summer 2024 to prepare for AY 2024-2025.
 32

33 Discussion: Though compensation needs to be negotiated, the motion does not explicitly note the
 34 use of funds for compensation. If the motion is approved, any compensation issues can be
 35 discussed between the AFT and the administration.
 36

37 **Motion Passed by General Consent**

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 39 **Planning, Development & Budget Committee, Dr. Hanae Haouari, Co-Chair and Dr.**
 40 **Yufeng Wei, Co-Chair** (Reports in OneDrive Folder)

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 42 Discussion: The report focused on details of a recent discussion with CFO Brian Kirkpatrick,
 43 who is an ex-officio member of the committee. There were questions on the exact amount of
 44 savings from retrenchments, the amount of shared sacrifice from administration, and guidelines
 45 for return on investment for new programs. The administration will assist on the return-on-
 46 investment question as they work with the program approval guidelines with the AIC, as per a

1 previous resolution. There are two committee reports, one is a more recent update, but both are
2 relevant.

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4 **General Education Committee, Dr. Caroline Wilkinson, Chairperson** (Report in OneDrive
5 Folder)

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7 **No New Business**

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9 **Meeting Adjourned at 3:55 pm.**

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12 **Approved by the University Senate: April 8, 2024**