

Meeting Minutes
NJIT Institute Faculty Meeting
October 18, 2023
Campus Center Atrium, 2:30 – 4:00 pm
Presiding: Daniel Bunker, Faculty Senate President

Convening of the meeting

- The meeting started at 2:40 PM

Approval of the April 12, 2023, Institute Faculty Meeting Minutes

- Met quorum, minutes passed by unanimous vote.

Faculty Senate Report

- Presented the Faculty Senators
- Welcomed new faculty members
 - CSLA
 - Biological Sciences: Allison Edgar
 - Chemistry & Environmental Science L Trevor Del Castillo
 - Humanities: Eugene Synder
 - Mathematical Sciences: Jonathan Jaquette
 - NCE
 - Biomedical Engineering: Rajarshi Chattaraj, Maryam Hajfathalian
 - Civil & Environmental Engineering Arjun Venkatesan
 - Electrical and Computer Engineering: Arnob Ghosh, Joshua Taylor
 - Mechanical and Industrial Engineering: Adeel Akhtar
 - YWCC
 - Computer Science: Zhihao Yao, Kasthuri Jayarajah
 - Data Science: Shuai Zhang, Akshay Rangamani
 - Informatics: Nathan Malkin, Alisha Pradhan
 - MTSM
 - JaeHyuck Park, Yanguang Liu, Shubham Gupta
 - HCAD
 - School of Art & Design: Richard Thompson
 - School of Architecture: Addison Godel, Aleks Mergold, Etien Santiago
 - **University Lecturers and Senior University Lecturers**
 - **CSLA:** Amy Flax, Andres Crespo Solis, Drew Ciccolo, Greg Edens, Grisele Gonzalez- Ledezma, Kathleen Pullum, Kevin Koh, Kristin Carfora, Laura Stanik, Patrick DePaolo, Rachid Bouayad, Sener Alptekin •
 - **HCAD:** Gretchen Von Koenig, Miguel Rodrigues •
 - **MTSM:** Heejae Lee, Manish Tripathy •
 - **NCE:** Ghazaleh Khayat, Melissa Valoura, Paul McCall •
 - **YWCC:** Arashdeep Kaur, Asif Kunwar, David Ullman, Jaini Bhavsar, Jun Wu, Karl Giannoglou, Kaustubh Pethkar, Keita Ohshiro, Khalid Bakhasaliev, Mark Chiusano, Michael Houle, Mohit Dale, Nikita Nemane, Nikita Ramesh Gaikwad, Nikita Suhas Nemane, Pantelis Monogioudis, Ravi Varadarajan, Ravneet Kaur, Samaneh Berenjian, Thomas Licciardello

Faculty Senate Initiatives 2023-24

- Passed a motion recommending that the administration to enact a recurring Faculty Development Fund
- Would provide nominal funds to all faculty on an annual basis to facilitate ongoing research productivity.
- Would complement the Faculty Seed Grant program
- Potential uses include Conference travel, computer upgrades, lab supplies and other consumables, software, page charges, etc.
- In discussions with the administration to explore this idea

- **University Promotion and Tenure Committee reform**
 - Provost has asked us to consider adding Associate Professors to the University P&T Committee
 - Would be similar to our Departmental P&T Committee structure
 - Would allow for greater demographic and disciplinary diversity on the University P&T Committee.

- **Teaching Faculty Ranks**
 - Ongoing effort to provide University Lecturers with better promotion pathways at NJIT and to better integrate Lecturers into our Departments and Colleges
 - Ad hoc committee chairs: Andrew Klobucar and Jaskirat Sodhi

- **Department Bylaws**
 - Clarify the Faculty Handbook to make clear that the Default Bylaws are in effect without any action by Departments.
 - Ensure that Customized Bylaws are approved (or not) by the FS, Dean, and Provost in a timely manner, and then posted on the provost's website
 - Clarify that Departments must re-affirm their Customized Bylaws when the Default Bylaws change.

- **Evaluations of Administrators**
 - Results of test run in Spring 2023 currently being reviewed
 - Anticipate evaluation of all administrators starting Spring 2024
 - Where 'all' means any administrator in the second year or later of their term, and every three years thereafter.

Presentation by the Provost, John Pelesko

Provost Pelesko shared his impressions of NJIT, describing it as a top-tier research institution that also prioritizes serving minority and economically disadvantaged students. He highlighted the collaborative and productive nature of discussions among faculty, particularly when addressing challenging issues like the composition of committees. This reflects a community dedicated to excellence and mutual support, with a commitment to positively impacting the lives of future generations.

New Business

- Representatives needed from ALL COLLEGES for various committees!
- Email Daniel.bunker@njit.edu if you are interested in serving