

Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting
October 3, 2019
Albert Dorman Honors College Conference Room (211), 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

- I. Convening of the Meeting – Ellen Thomas, President
The meeting started at 11:34AM

- II. Roll Call- The following voting members were present: S. Adamovich, M. Bandelt, D. Blackmore, D. Bunker, E. Farinas, I. Gatley, H. Grebel, R. Goodman, B. Khusid, N. Steffen-Fluhr, E. Michalopoulou, L. Potts, R. Rojas-Cessa, A. Rosato, U. Roshan, L. Rodriguez-Freire, M. Schwartz, R. Sodhi, T. Schuman (sub for D. Sollohub), G. Thomas, E. Thomas, Y. Perl, A. Gerbessiotis, and P. Armenante, and A. Lee.

The following non-voting members were present: J. Shafik, K. Belfield, R. Lazer, B. Ozludil Altin (sub for L. Hamilton), A. Hoang, M. Kam, M. Stanko, K. Riismandel, S. Mongelli, B. Kolarevic, B. Baltzis, and G. Chottiner.

The following guests were present: W. Lin Cook, J. Trombella, H. Rotstein, L. Axe, W. Fox, A. Bose, A. Dhawan, and D. Venerus.

- III. Approval of Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting on September 19, 2019
The minutes of the FS meeting on September 19, 2019 were approved unanimously with 1 abstention.

- IV. Report of the Faculty Senate President (15 Minutes)
 - a. BOT
R. Cohen whom is to replace S. DePalma as BOT Chair in July 2020 is anxious to resume our regular meetings once he assumes the leadership role.
 - b. New from DP
The CFRR has approved a revised document that is ready to be sent to us for a vote at our next meeting. The DP recommended checking procedures at other universities.
 - c. NJIT 2025
Dr. Deek wants feedback on draft as soon as possible (the BOT will vote on it in February).
Review draft: <https://www.njit.edu/strategicplan/draft-njit-2025>
 - d. Verification of presence
B. Haggerty looking for digital solutions to some problems that have arisen.
 - e. Middle States Survey
New survey to come (with main focus on satisfaction with faculty governance).
 - f. IFM
Dr. Bloom and Dr. Deek to attend on 10/16. Plans to introduce new faculty.
 - g. Committee Assignments
Committee members still needed.

- V. Motion: If an academic unit wants to design a GER course in a specialty of another academic unit (e.g. math GER, Humanities GER), the course should be designed by both units and have the approval of both (Y. Perl, 20 min)
This was debated in May, but quorum was lost before vote.
Y. Perl motioned to approve. E. Michalopoulou seconded. Discussion. M. Kam asked what it means to be “a specialty of another academic department?” and who makes final decisions. More concerns about other units vetoing. K. Riismandel noted that two other committees now do this

work: CUE and GER. D. Bunker need more conversations about the idea behind the motion-will departments have control over GER? M. Kam commented that FS should challenge the language ““should have the approval of both units-if one does not agree-it’s dead”. A. Gerbessiotis asked if GER/CUE meeting minutes are available to all faculty. E. Michalopoulou stated that only CUE members have access to minutes. I. Gatley motion to send this back to CUE and GER committees. D. Bunker seconded. Motion was approved (15 yes, 5 no, 1 abstention).

VI. Report from ad hoc Committee to promote transparency on the fulfillment of NJIT budget priorities on infrastructure (Amit Bose)

Post presentation Q&A. I. Gatley commented that this committee should be called Strategic Planning Committee; however, he has concerns about continuing to create more committees. M. Kam commented that going from ranking of 97 to 75 is a unrealistic goal. The main goal should be to stay in the top 100 and the need to change the profile of students. A. Bose agreed that whether or not this is attainable it should be discussed and that this committee works with administration-they are not adversaries. T. Rosato commented that undergraduate student quality is very important. K. Riismandel questioned why this does not go through existing committees with full representation including LEC. D. Bunker stated that there are two Strategic Planning committees already.

VII. Introduction of Jerry Trombella, registrar, and discussion (30 min)

Presentation and discussion. “Assessment Criteria” slide is actually the proposed criteria. Plan is to take data from spring schedule in Infoslem to test the schedule criteria. D. Bunker asked how we are addressing constraints for students with classes needed to graduate. W. Lin Cook stated that the system creates ad hoc academic block, to avoid conflicts. Consultants to use catalog/course combinations for testing. J. Shafik concerned about student academic freedom restrictions. W. Lin Cook confirmed that restrictions are for classes only, students still have the ability to choose their own classes. B. Baltzis asked the Senate how they will receive faculty input. E. Thomas confirmed that the FS Executive Committee will meet with J. Trombella. A. Dhwan commented that some classes do not run due to low enrollment-even if it is needed to graduate. B. Baltzis stated that NJIT has never denied running a required course even if only two students are enrolled-however, this does not apply to electives.

VIII. Report on NJ’s bill requiring NJ higher education institutions to develop an open textbook plan to address textbook affordability (Ann Hoang, 15 min)

Presentation and discussion. B. Khusid asked if it is possible for NJIT to buy licenses at wholesale price and provide to students. A. Hoang clarified that there is a time restriction (usually 90 days or one semester only) on access to the files. So it would address the immediate, but not the long term, needs of the students. M. Schwartz asked to incorporate this as an option for HCAD. B. Baltzis stressed that the new state law requires NJIT to develop plans for OAR, which needs feedback/input from FS for what has been and is to be done. A. Hoang stated that the library will, working with faculty, produce report that includes the plan for OAR.

IX. Introduction of new undergraduate program in materials engineering (Moshe Kam, 10 min)

Presentation and discussion. R. Sodhi asked if there will be a separate department for this program. M. Kam stated that this will reside in the Chemical and Materials Engineering Dept. I. Gatley stated that he would be happy to assist on the Physics side. E. Michalopoulou asked if there is a risk not having ABET by the first cohort. M. Kam clarified that no, ABET foundation provides “pre-approval” of programs that are candidates.

The meeting ended at 1:30PM