

# UNIVERSITY SENATE

## Agenda

### September 16, 2015

- Approval of April 15, 2015 University Senate meeting minutes
- President's Report
- Election of Executive Committee

*University Senate Bylaws section II.E.1:*

*"Election Procedure*

*Pursuant to Section 4 of the Constitution of the University Senate, the voting members of the University Senate shall, at their first meeting of the fall semester, elect a Vice President and an Executive Secretary from among their number. At this meeting the voting members shall also elect from among their number the remaining three members of the Executive Committee, to include one faculty member, one administrator, and one member from any one of the following stakeholder groups: the Staff Council, the Lecturers and Educators Congress, the Student Senate, the Graduate Student Association, and the Alumni Association."*

- Reports of standing committees
- Provost's report
  - Follow-up/new discussion of topics brought forth at the April 15, 2015 meeting:
    - Proposed change to text of Section IV.D of University Senate Bylaws indicating that the chairperson of each standing committee must be a voting member of the University Senate
    - Removing the text "The Chairperson" in each instance of listing of initial membership of all standing committees
    - Should there be a requirement that there is at least one member of the University Senate on each standing committee?
    - Include text in the Bylaws as to the process for adding members to any standing committee.

- Initial discussions of Elections Committee to be finalized by Nov. 11 meeting

*"Election and Bylaw/Constitutional Review Committees*

*At the last meeting of the University Senate in the fall semester an election committee of not less than three members of the University Senate shall be nominated and elected to begin the necessary preparation and publicity for the spring elections."*

- Vice Provosts' reports

**UNIVERSITY SENATE**

## Minutes

September 16, 2015

In attendance: B. Baltzis, M. Bebawy, J. Bloom, D. Bunker, R. Cassetta, R. Caudill, A. Christ, R. Das, F. Deek, C. Dees, A. Dhawan, J. Esche, C. Fey, K. Franck, A. Garretson, U. Gauchat, J. Geller, W. Hubbi, N. Joshi, P. Kenrick, M. Kam, S. Kent, G. Mass, V. Passarro, K. Passerini, P. Petropoulos, M. Rusinkiewicz, A. Saadeghvaziri, R. Sher, C. Siemann, T. Small, K. Turner, R. Uppaluri, S. Zivras

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Unanimous approval of April 15, 2015 meeting minutes.

**President's Report**

- President Bloom discussed the important role that Shared Governance is playing at NJIT.
- He next gave an overview of Fall 2015 data on enrollment, retention, graduation, and residential occupancy.
- U.S. News and World Report's latest National Universities Rankings has come out, showing an improved ranking for NJIT. While this is positive news, we need to continue to focus on improving our retention and graduation efforts.
- The search for the Senior VP Finance & Treasurer is underway. This will be a national search and will be chaired by Provost Fadi Deek.
- Dr. Bloom discussed the status of many capital renewal and replacement initiatives including lab renovations, CKB progress, the new parking deck, the Life Sciences & Engineering building, and the Wellness & Events Center.
- The NEXT Campaign is coming to a close, and an announcement of the next capital campaign will be forthcoming.
- The Gateway Project is being re-addressed. This is an important initiative and we must move forward with this development.
- Core Values, as outlined in the 2020 Vision, were cited and emphasized. Specifically, we need to focus on peer-mentoring for our students.

**Elections of Executive Committee****Vice President**

Judith Sheft was the only nomination and won by a vote of acclamation.

**Executive Secretary**

Greg Mass was nominated and won by a vote of acclamation.\*

\*Mr. Mass subsequently resigned when he was later nominated to serve as Administrator's representative on the Executive Committee.

Ray Cassetta was nominated after the resignation of Greg Mass, and won by a vote of acclamation.

#### **Faculty Representative**

Ala Saadeghvaziri was the only nomination and won by a vote of acclamation.

#### **Administrator's Representative**

(see above notes under Executive Secretary position)

Greg Mass was the only nomination and won by a vote of acclamation

#### **Staff/LEC/Undergrad Student/Grad Student/Alumni Representative**

- 3 nominees, with initial voting results: Rajeet Das (8), Scott Kent (8), Tiffany Small (7)
- A vote was taken to decide the tie between R. Das and S. Kent, with R. Das winning with (12) votes to S. Kent's (9) votes.

\*Final results of elections:\*

**Vice President – Judith Sheft**

**Executive Secretary – Ray Cassetta**

**Faculty Representative – Ala Saadeghvaziri**

**Administrator's Representative – Gregg Mass**

**Staff/LEC/Undergrad Student/Grad Student/Alumni Representative – Rajeet Das**

#### **Provost's Report**

The Provost discussed the implementation phase of the NJIT 2020 Vision Strategic Plan including committee structures and reporting. He also thanked the entire community for their help with the 2020 Vision.

#### **Reports of Standing Committees**

- **Committee on Facilities, Chair: Mr. Andrew Christ**

The committee held their first meeting on September 11, 2015. They noted that they still have several positions to fill before completing their membership body, and this is being worked on.

Some topics discussed included:

- New reporting structure / Environmental Health & Safety and Public Safety now report to Mr. Christ
- Facilities benchmarking
- Capital renewal & replacement (i.e. CKB, WEC, Life Sciences & Engineering building)
- A re-examination of the existing facilities master plan needs to and will be done.

- **Committee on Campus Life, Chair: Dr. Charlie Fey**

The committee held their first meeting on September 10, 2015. They are working to update and complete their membership for the year.

Some topics discussed included:

- Athletics
- Food services
- Billing & collections

A focus for the committee this year will be how to enhance the NJIT student experience. A new sub-committee has been created to evaluate and then suggest ways in which we can improve upon and make enhancements to student experiences on campus.

- **Committee on Human Resources, Chair: Ms. Kay Turner**

The committee has not yet met this academic year. They too are working to update and complete their membership for the year.

Ms. Turner announced that NJIT will have an organizational development function and presence by this fall, and that a new hire will be in place to support this initiative.

- **Strategic Planning Committee , Dr. Fadi Deek (reporting on behalf of Dr. Joel Bloom, Chair)**

This committee has not yet met this academic year.

Implementation of the 2020 Vision will be the main task going forward.

**Vice Provost's Report: Dr. Atam Dhawan**

New grant management software has been purchased and will be rolled out shortly.

- September 28<sup>th</sup> will be the first Research Open House in Ballroom A from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- November 26<sup>th</sup> NJIT will host our first Research Center Showcase in Ballrooms A/B from 12:00 4:00 p.m.

A suite of research compliance policies have been put together and all have been posted online. The OSR will visit each department to review and discuss these new policies.

**Other Business**

- Richard Sher, President of the Faculty Senate, spoke to some concerns and announcement from the Senate:
  - The Faculty are concerned with facilities as they pertain to teaching and research.
  - An amendment to the Faculty Senate Bylaws has been approved to change the quorum at a faculty meeting to 20%. This will go to the BoT on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> for final approval.
  - Major revisions to the Faculty Handbook will be ongoing this academic year.

- The new Faculty Handbook, with changes approved the Board of Trustees, has been posted on the web.
- Rajeet Das, Student Senate President, offered some updates:
  - Senate is working on unifying the campus under one goal
  - They are looking to fill every seat on campus committees so they can insure equal representation across their community
  - Feedback sessions are being planned for the academic year

Meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.