

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

22 April 2025

Campus Center, Ballroom B, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM

1. Convening of the Meeting—Andrzej Zarzycki, President

Voting members: A. Gerbessiotis, A. Abdi, A. Eun Jung Lee, A. Lefkovitz, A. Hoover, A. Zarzycki, A. Borgaonkar, B. Khusid, C. McRae, D. Bunker, D. Horntrop, E. Farinas, E. Thomas, F. Deek, H. Grebel, I. Gatley, I. Neamtiu, J. Lee, M. Booty, N. Steffen Fluhr, P. Armenante, S. Adamovich, S. Subramanian, T. Narahara, Y. Pearl, Y. Chen

Non-Voting Members: J. Sodhi, M. Kam, K. Belfield, M. Stanko, J. Payton, L. Simon, W. Sadik, A. Pacheco, J. Krawiec, G. Esperdy,

2. Approval of Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting on 8 April 2025

The minutes approved, seconded by Fadi Deek, with a friendly amendment to revise the minutes with correct dates, added names, and corrected spelling for Mat Schwartz.

3. Report of the Faculty Senate President

- a. Senate (Re)Elections + New Senators
- b. Vice-President of the FS for 2025-26: Looking for volunteers.
- c. Fadi introduces idea of the 2nd vice president.
- c. The last FS meeting moved from 5/6 to 5/13, at the same time and location.

4. CUE Updates + Motions, David Horntrop

- a. BS in ET Software and Data Engineering Tech. motion and second from Calista McRae. One vote against. Motion carries
- b. B.S. in Concrete Industry Management. Ashish Borgaonkar seconds. Motion carries
- c. Remote Sensing Minor. Ashish Borgaonkar seconds. Motion carries.
- d. B.S. in General Engineering. Ashish Borgaonkar seconds. Motion carries.
- e. B.S. in Industrial Engineering Technology. Ashish Borgaonkar seconds. Motion carries
- f. B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology. Ashish Borgaonkar seconds. Motion carries.
- g. GER: HIST 328 new course as a cultural literacy 300+ GER. Ashish Borgaonkar seconds. Motion carries.
- h. Data Science: AI minor and B.S. in Data Science (Computing Option). Ashish Borgaonkar seconds. Motion carries.

5. YWCC Presentation, Jamie Payton

The departments and core areas of study: Computer Science; Data Science; and Informatics. Areas of focus differ in terms of research and educational programs. CS: We primarily focus on design of algorithms and scalable software. DS: computational techniques to extract info from data. Informatics: deploying and maintaining IT systems, and also human-computer interaction. How humans engage with computing systems and

how computing systems impact human interaction. 6 programs, and 2 are ABET accredited with an evaluation this fall. 9 master's degree programs and 3 PhD. Offer these programs on campus and in JC. Also offer specializations, etc. Enrollment has doubled over the last 10 years. 3k undergraduate. 1250 masters. And over 100 phd. Total enrollment was about 4450 for this academic year. 35 percent of NJIT enrollment. 60 percent of enrollment for graduate. Student experiences: we focus on experiential learning. All capstones have outside collaborators. Also coops. Also student-led hackathons open to other universities too. GirlHacks, HackNJIT, JerseyCTF. A student from Stevens came to NJIT because of a hackathon offering community here. Hari Sah won an International Problem Based Learning Competition. Princeton FlyWire Codex Data Challenge: David Bader et al with Edison Magnet High school students. 80 in graduate rankings for masters in CS. BS in Game Design in Princeton Review. 21 for online masters in AI. Online Data Science and 13 for cybersecurity. 61 TT faculty, 55 lecturers, 6 advisors, and 15 staff. Innovations in AI including improving early diagnosis of Alzheimer's. Including patients who have trouble coming to appointments. Project with physics for predicting solar flares and impacts. Recognition at highest levels of prestige and recognition. NSF Career, IEEE Fellow, and also IEEE Top 30 Early Career awards. Research Report 2025. External funding: almost \$9 million for new awards. Plus \$5 million collaborations with PIs at NJIT.

Vision for the future: gain national recognition for leadership in real-world challenges. Rigorous and inclusive educational programs. Strategic priorities. Research excellence and impact. Transformative learning and student success. Partnerships and community engagement. Faculty and staff success.

Goals: grow faculty expertise on AI and cybersecurity. Already expertise here but also expand it. AI+ research ie, collaborative research between AI experts and others. 4 new faculty members on AI this year and 5 new faculty members for next year, including AI and cybersecurity.

Another goal is to grow external research funding. Amplify this, and initiatives coming around. Career development workshops. Enhance PhD student training and outcomes. Launched a pilot version of PhD research skills seminar. Establish Ying Wu as a national leader that creates explicit learning pathways in AI and cybersecurity. AI is transforming work, education, and society. We don't want to look just at Ying Wu students, but students across NJIT to develop AI. AI+x breaking the silos which will help with AI competencies. Innovation in AI. Look at creating a new minor in AI for all students. Continuing to work together to create new degree programs. IE Business and AI program collaboration. Capacity for AI scientists and engineers. 16 specialized undergrad courses and graduate courses too.

NSF Level Up AI project to shape the future of AI Education. Working with industry, policy, non-profits, and advancing AI for all. Supporting collective action. Shared and adopted and used in a meaningful way.

Transformative Learning experiences: TA professional development and community engagement, including a new board of visitors. Working with a former alum in the Bay Area centered around AI. Setting up an alumni chapter in the Bay area and inviting to reconnect with NJIT. This creates pathways for our current students.

Faculty and staff goals: The assistant professor mentoring program treats incoming faculty as a cohort. Workshops and roundtables on research, teaching, and mentoring grad students. Invitation to collaborate.

6. Provost Updates, John Pelesko

Delivers updates on the federal developments. Things continue to change rapidly.

Thanks to the task force for helping us shape that policy, also the deans and administrators.

The Department of Energy released new guidance saying its direct cost rate would be 15 percent going forward. NIH already did that, which is locked in the court.

NSF: NSF has been cancelling grants recently, mostly DEI-related. They have also slowed down their funding releases and grant review process because of DOGE.

NIH released new guidance modifying terms and conditions of current and future grants.

Task Force: special thanks to Wunmi and Bill for co-chairing. Reports from subcommittees. Open forum on Monday about the executive orders on Monday at 4:30--what questions you have that aren't being answered. Also want to share some of the work that the task forces has been doing and what they should be doing going forward.

Dana Knox research—twice as many students as usual. About 268 students. Judging of the projects going on right now. Special thanks to the grad and undergrad and research office.

7. Teaching Faculty Rank—Faculty Handbook Revisions, Fadi Deek + Andrzej Zarzycki

The CFRR is working on the faculty handbook language for the teaching faculty rank proposal. The Committee raised 6 questions seeking clarity.

- (i) levels of review for teaching track faculty. EC felt that we do need to have an external review for promotion, including external letters. Those candidates will help shape how they are being evaluated, whether by student success or awards, etc.
- (ii) Appointment vs. Promotion. Moving between lecturers and assistant professors. This is an appointment ie, a new position.

- (iii) Should there be a way for SUL to retain non-voting representation? Reorganized LEC nonvoting representative. Also, please weigh in on the appointment or promotion. EC says that it is an appointment so that there is a rigorous review.
- (iv) Voting rights for representatives. As Senators represent their departments, they should have the same voting rights independently of their track.