

Minutes of the Institute Faculty Meeting
December 4, 2024, 2:30-4:30 PM
Campus Center Atrium

1. Convening of the Meeting

- The meeting started at 2:38 PM

2. Approval of the minutes from October 23rd, 2024, Institute Faculty Meeting

Minutes Motion to approve the minutes made by Andrzej Zarzycki and seconded by Dan Bunker.

- Motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2024, was made, seconded, and amended to replace the second bullet with: “Motion to approve the minutes made by Dan B. and seconded by Allison L. The motion was amended to include the text of the motion referenced in item 3.a. as an attachment to the minutes. Motion approved as amended.” Motion passed.

3. Faculty Senate Report (Andrzej Zarzycki, 10 Minutes)

- Facility updates from Andrew Christ.
- Budget transition from Cathy Brennan.
- Impact of AI on curriculum including educational initiatives from Moshe Kam and also policies and best practices from Marybeth, Nikki, and Ioannis Koutis.
- Reports from free-standing FS committees.
- Reminder of Nexus of Excellence Awards Ceremony 12/12 at 3 pm in Jim Wise Theater.
- Teaching Faculty Ranks Update: met with almost all the departments and only one left. Feedback through the survey. Reevaluate and finalize the proposal to present in the spring.

4. Report of the President (Teik C. Lim, 10 Minutes)

- Detailed the major initiatives in AI at NJIT including 10 million to establish the Grace Hopper Research Institute and being chosen to participate in the American Association of Colleges and University program to address the transformative potential of AI on education. Showed how we are building on an area of strength including \$200 million dollars in past research funding for AI and more than 30 faculty members working on this.
- Explained that we founded the Center for Education Innovation and Excellence to foster innovative educational objectives.
- Identified last year as our most successful fundraising, with \$24 million raised and the naming of Jordan Hu CSLA. Asked the faculty to practice pervasive development by telling the good story of NJIT to corporations, non-profits, legislators, and community members.

- Celebrated our recent significant national rankings, including US News & World Report; rankings for best salaries and social mobility; WSJ best value; and our entrepreneurship programs in the Princeton Review.
- Walid Hubbi asked for more ways to get faculty involved in decision making, and President Lim detailed the venues already in place.
- Farzan Nadim asked if the university was prepared for new potential challenges due to the incoming presidential administration. President Lim explained that the university is always mindful of potential changes and prepares plans for those circumstances.
- President Lim introduced Cathy Brennan's upcoming presentation and how the new budget model will decentralize, make spending transparent, and incentivize innovation.

5. AI-focused Initiatives at NJIT (Nikki Bosca, 10 Minutes)

- Recapped that two groups actively working in tandem on AI and the student learning experience: the AI Teaching/Learning Working Group and the AAC&U Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum Team.
- Detailed the development of AI Core competencies for undergrads.
- Identified the AI curriculum and Instruction Innovation Grants as separate from the Grace Hopper grants.
- Conducted a student survey on AI use. Survey revealed current usage among students and overall their hopes to improve their time management, gain learning assistance, and receive personalized learning experiences. Students worried about accuracy and academic integrity and overall did not want or were divided on faculty using AI to grade or craft teaching.
- Announced January 13 as the CEIE Kickoff event.
- Addressed a question about how faculty can best encourage students to utilize AI as a tutor or solve a question. She suggested that faculty will best use AI when they understand the range of ways that AI can be used to design assignments well.
- Michael Ehrlich asked about the ethical problem of AI using our data. Discussed how that question was included in the core competencies.
- Provost Pelesko clarified that Grace Hopper's solicitation focuses on research, not education projects.

6. New Budget Model and Transition (Cathy Brennan and Lisa Easton, 20 minutes presentation followed by the discussion)

- Cathy Brennan presented the new budget model as a tool that will make the budget more transparent, decentralized, driving innovation, and containing costs. Campus leadership will still have power but will be able to make data-informed decisions.

Deans will be responsible for guiding business, with guard rails from the provost's office and the model itself.

- Cathy Brennan related the process for developing the model, including visiting campuses using the model, talking with Kubo and EAB, forming working groups representing every area of the campus, holding simulations, editing the simulations, and meeting with the budget units.
- The model in FY 26 will be the first year the model in operation but “hold harmless.”
- Cathy Brennan presented the problems with our current model, including disincentives to reexamine existing programs, being overly centralized, and not being transparent.
- Lisa Easton laid out the basic model, including dividing up divisions into either a support center or a revenue center. Revenue Centers include academic colleges, residence life, research office, and development and alumni relations. The support centers include student support, facilities, and general support. Easton also detailed how revenues would be allocated, including some being held back for central reserves. Easton also explained that formulas would charge each unit for facilities by square footage, net costs divided by each unit of doing business, and student costs divided by student.
- Faculty were told that they can help the new budget model by growing undergraduate enrollment; graduate enrollment; charging PhD stipends and tuition awards to grants if possible; summer and winter programs; and asking for full ICR for sponsored research.
- Lisa Easton, Cathy Brennan, and John Pelesko answered questions, explaining that classroom usage is assessed to the registrar; explaining that virtual trainings would be available online and budget managers would get their own training; that the deans helped determine whether PhD programs would be service or revenue models to help retain our R1 status; discussed whether maker space and tech support would be on the support or revenue side; suggested that there would not be pressure to grow our class sizes because it was the deans' responsibility to balance academic and fiscal responsibilities; that we are attempting to move our Board meeting earlier in the year to minimize the time to restart the budget after July 1; suggested that faculty ask the deans to share the budget model; explained that allocations are based on credit hours not contact hours; and explained that service level agreements were being crafted so revenue centers could understand what services they were being charged for.

7. New business

Andrzej makes a motion to close the meeting at 4:23, and Ashish seconds the motion to adjourn.