Student Senate Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday March 12th, 2014

Present: Johnathan Weiss (President), Axel Geoffroy Kouassi (Vice President of Administration), Jennifer Farah (Vice President of Finance), Jake Campbell (Vice President of Student Affairs), Oscar Chang (Treasurer), Michael Bebawy (Recording Secretary), Benita Benjamin (Corresponding Secretary), Amanda Redden (Senior Class President), Angel Plaza (Freshmen Class President), Anthony Samaha (College of Architecture and Design), Thomas Anderson (College of Science and Liberal Arts), Arthur Midianga (School of Management), John Vito D’Antonio-Bertagnoli (Biomedical Engineering), Jennifer Ligo (Chemical Engineering), Rajeet Das (Civil Engineering), Philip Zurek (Computer Engineering), William Busarello (Digital Design), Victor Aladele (Electrical Engineering), Gabrielle Rejouis (History), and Cady Kagume (Industrial Engineer).

Late: Alpha Jalloh (Junior Class President).

Absent: Ayaz Uddin (College of Computing Sciences), Arsalan Khan (College of Engineering), Scott Lieberman (Applied Physics), Kevin Chen (Biology), Sarika Munir (Chemistry), Kareem Fayek (Human Computer Interaction), Rafal Kierznowski (Information Technology), Vivian Hawn (Resident), Darshan Patel (Freshmen Resident), Lenerson Pyrrhus (Freshmen Resident), Magid Youssef (Commuter) and Monica Ghabour (Freshman Commuter).

Non Senators: Bob Moran

Point of Privilege: Anthony Samaha (College of Architecture and Design) and William Busarello (Digital Design).

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm.

MINUTES
The minutes of February 26th, 2014 were discussed.

REPORTS

President Reports:

Johnathan Weiss, President:
The Fee Committee has been meeting up for Campus. This consists of representatives from Registrar, Bursar, Athletics, Campus Center, Dean of Students and Dr. Fey. In the meeting they discuss recommended changes to the fee structure. The most highly recommended change is to consolidate the fees. The purpose is too more appropriately represent the allocation of the money.

**Executive Reports:**

**Axel Geoffroy Kouassi, Vice President of Administration:**

Since February 16th, I am part of the Search Committee for the new Vice President for Real Estate Development & Capital Operations. We have been evaluated more than 100 candidates and their resumes and have been meeting weekly. As we are reaching the end of the search, we have invited the last four candidates to visit our campus. They will all have an open forum with students. Here is the schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Open Forum</th>
<th>Meeting w/ Student Body</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, March 24</td>
<td>John McEnrue</td>
<td>GITC 1100</td>
<td>GITC 1100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, March 26</td>
<td>Roy Pachecano</td>
<td>Cullimore Lecture Hall 2</td>
<td>Cullimore Lecture Hall 2</td>
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<td>Thurs, March 27</td>
<td>Andrew Christ</td>
<td>Eberhardt 112</td>
<td>Eberhardt 112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, March 31</td>
<td>Roger Demareski</td>
<td>Eberhardt 112</td>
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On Thursday February 20th, I had a meeting with Mr. Joseph Tartaglia, the Associate Vice President of Facilities Management in order to discuss about the senate Admin Committee Goals.
I wanted to know which of our semester goals will be achievable within the timeframe we have. So far the goals that have already been achieved are:

- The crosswalks and the "Slow for Pedestrian" Sign between the Honors Dorm and the soccer field.

- The crosswalks and the "Slow for Pedestrian" Sign between Tiernan Parking Lot and the Village.

Unsure about the feasibility of having murals in the CKB building since it's still under construction, during the meeting I was able to have an answer: We can have murals in the CKB, however we will have to work with an architect in order to get a better result.

Mr. Joseph Tartaglia also mentioned that crosswalks and "Slow for Pedestrian" signs will also be installed between the Soccer Field and Warren Street. I did some in person surveys about this project, and most people traveling to take the light rail on the other side of the road said it was a good idea. However there are no ways of recording people's feedbacks and do some statistics or analytics. Therefore I asked him if we can create a shared Google Doc linked with both our emails that will allow any student to report any facilities issues and also share their concerns. That way, both of us will be notified in a timely manner. It will also allows NJIT members to report specific issues. Part of our goals are to fix the drainage area between Cypress and Redwood, upgrade furniture in academic buildings, tackle heat and cooling problems. However in order to upgrade any furniture we need to know where they are and which upgrades are needed. Moreover the drainage area between Cypress and Redwood being a big project, all inputs will be needed. Creating a feedback form about it in addition to the new Google Doc Facilities Issues Report form will allow better ideas to be shared and an interactive online forum
with Mr. Joseph Tartaglia. That is also part of our goal, which can be seen on studentsenate.njit.edu.

On March 5th, I attended the NJIT Administrative Affairs Council meeting, in which all members of the NJIT Administration were present. I was the only undergraduate student attending. The president of NJIT Joel Bloom welcomed me and said to me to tell all NJIT students to speak up because 50% of the revenues come from student enrollment. The meeting started at 10AM. The president talked about the current progress of New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII). *New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII) at NJIT is* designed to grow NJIT’s commercially-oriented research and development portfolio and position NJIT as a state and national leader among universities supporting cutting edge economic development and job creation. As public support is declining on both state and federal levels, industry are investing lesser and lesser in Research and Development (R&D) due to the high costs and the risks involved in taking the initiative of building their own R&D facilities. NJII wants to be those partners that will help industry achieve innovation. This commercially oriented initiative will also help NJIT reduce its $6M deficit in the long term since the school will be paid for its services, and will also provide to students the opportunity to work with industry leaders within their campus. Corporations will not only come for the career fair and then leave; they will hire and work with students on their campus. NJII will be a nonprofit corporation 501(c)3. NJII will:

- Distinguish our scholarship by supporting researchers who pursue real-world challenges and possible solutions.

- Create partnerships and emulate the context for which students are being prepared to work.
- Offer opportunities for our faculty and students in technology development and the management of innovation.

- Blend university talent and facilities with industry savvy professionals and commercial sector partner resources.

- Reaffirm NJIT as being in the mainstream of science and technology that is central to building the next generation of innovative and leading-edge New Jersey companies.

NJII implementation is progressing quickly. Communications efforts, including websites, branding and descriptive literature and videos are underway. It's Kickoff event is planned for early afternoon on April 22nd. Corporations memberships have already been committed by AECOM, Berger, and Panasonic, with several others being pursued. A proposal is being developed for a large, multi-year grant to fund efforts supporting targeted user groups of New Jersey companies to innovate both in their markets and their products. Included within the proposal are capabilities in data analytics and visualization, strategic convening techniques, and innovation design and management that will bring corporate partners into relationship with the Innovation Institute and NJIT. Provost Deek, Senior Vice President Sebastian, and AVP & Senior Advisor Franklin now meet regularly to shape processes to form iLabs (innovation labs) and cLabs (competency labs) as well as integrating existing NJIT assets into a coherent whole across our research and economic development mission. As a practical matter the initial iLabs build primarily upon existing NJIT assets of faculty, students, equipment and facilities. New topics for iLabs are also being discussed. Room exists to expand from the list below as vision, expertise, resource, and operating model converge to make additional topics possible. The process of developing new iLabs and CLabs will take time and involve many of you as we make progress. Here is the initial list being considered:
During the meeting, it was also mentioned that NJIT made some improvements in terms of student retention on both graduate and undergraduate levels when compared to the national average. Among new full time master’s degree students, a 96% fall to spring retention rate was
achieved; and among new PhD students, a 100% fall to spring retention rate was achieved. These are the highest fall to spring graduate student retention rates ever recorded at NJIT.

NJIT is also willing to sell some of its properties in order to use them for parking, reduce costs and have some revenues. Despite the $6M deficit, tuition will not increase. Increasing tuition is not part of the University's plan to recover the deficit. However enrollment representing half of our revenues, the Fall enrollment goal is to enroll 10,450 students.

NJIT workers will see soon an increase if their salary. The University is planning to spend $3.5M in salary increase.

On the educational part, NJIT partnership with Pearson has been very successful. It did allow some time and space convenience for students. NJIT is planning to provide more online classes to students next semester since demand is starting to increase.

**Oscar Chang, Treasurer:**

Health and fitness week is going on right now. For those that are signed up tonight there is a minor correction. Miniversity was going to run a similar event so it was decided that we should combine the Dodgeball Tournament.

Tomorrow is the obstacle course and the SAC Rockwall. Friday is the Zumba party that will be ran be Sarika.

April 21st is the beginning of spring week. Senate will be running 3 or 4 events, the rest will be hosted by SAC.

**College Reports:**

**Senator Reports:**

**Philip Zurek, Computer Engineering:**

ECE Feedback Session
Monday, March 10, 2014
Attendance:
12 Students (3 Freshman, 2 Sophomores, 5 Juniors, 2 Seniors)
Dr. Boodhoo, Undergraduate Advisor and Curriculum Coordinator
Dr. Sosnowski, Associate Chair, Undergraduate

Topics Discussed:
MultiSim and other software

Issue: MultiSim should be in more locations. AutoCAD Electrical, PTC
ProCable, and Microwave Office are all options as well.
Resolution: The department will check into the license agreements.

Physics 3

Issue: Classes are overbooked. Some say that it is not necessary for future courses in the department.
Resolution: The department will discuss with the Physics Department the possibility of reducing class size and possibly removing the course form the curriculum.

Programming

Issue: Matlab, Java, etc. are not being taught and should be. CS 115 assumes previous programming experience.
Resolution: Suggested to pursue a CS Minor. There are too many courses for another programming class. There is MATLAB seminar with an ECE Professor and in FED with Professor Feknous. Students are expected to learn it on their own time.

ECE 101

Seniors could interview with freshman to better prepare them for future internship and job searches.

FED Arduino Project

Issue: The FED course should include an Arduino or similar project.
Resolution: Projects should be pursued on own time. IEEE is hosting an Arduino training seminar. FED has a spectrum of people and the professor can’t appeal to all of them. It would be too time consuming. Leave it for the Senior Design Project.

FED Electronics Kit

It can be bought on the internet for 30% cheaper in the future from an ECE professor’s company selling the kits.

Fields I and II

Issue: Field 1 and 2 should be non-compulsory for non-RF students.
Resolution: These courses are vital to the degree program.

ECE 333

Issue: The professor teaching style is lacking. He is late to class and is not utilizing resources.
Resolution: Specifics must be presented in order for action to be taken. These will be gathered for a follow-up.

ECE 394
Issue: The professor is not helpful, has arbitrary grading, and didn’t give out a rubric.
Resolution: Ask for rubric; was a syllabus received?

Dr. Boodhoo Office Hours
Issue: Never at her office.
Resolution: Office hours are by appointment only.

ECE 271
Issue: Alternate Professor requested. Professor Levkov didn’t say what was expected of students.
Resolution: Was the syllabus received? The professor could teach Fields instead.

ECE 395
Issue: Not feeling like a real lab course. Will it change?
Resolution: People not handing in reports. Improving outdated process for the first time results in some glitches. The course is moving in the right direction. Follow-up in a few weeks.

ECE 251
Issue: Professor Akhtar comes late. He is lacking recent teaching experience and is unsatisfactory.
Resolution: Specifies are needed. Can’t address a person but style can be addressed.

Cady Kagume, Industrial Engineer:

IE Department Feedback Session
Friday March 7, 2014

Faculty in attendance:
Dr. Reggie Caudill, Department Chair
Ms. Lucie Tchouassi, Undergraduate Program Advisor
Dr. Bladikas, Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Number of students: 12

Main topics discussed:
- Familiarity with department staff
- Class Scheduling
- Teacher varieties

The feedback allowed the industrial engineering students to become more acquainted with the staff of their department. Issues that were voiced were for:

(1) A change in/rotation of class teachers, so that a student may have a variety of teachers teaching them a variety of subjects instead of having one teacher for 3-4 classes per semester.
(2) A change is class scheduling so that multiple major classes don’t fall in the same meeting time, restricting the number or major classes an IE student can take.

(3) Better communication and involvement of the IE staff and faculty in helping students understand subject material.

Future meetings are pending with department head to discuss the best ways to make the above changes.

Victor Aladele, Electrical Engineering:

The last feedback session which was organized for students in the ECE department was held on the 10th of March 2014. Twelve students were present, and they were able to lay out many of the issues they felt needed to be addressed. Dr. Shivon Booshoo and Dr. Marek Sosnowski, who were part of the administrative personnel present, were able to give convincing answers to many of the concerns pointed out by the students. This report provides a highlight/summary of the many issues that were raised.

Some of the issues brought up during the feedback session included:

- General programming issues i.e. students complained about the lack of enough programming knowledge or background to meet up with the current demand for good programming skills within the science and engineering field. Some of the students suggested that some programming classes, like AUTOCAD and MATLAB, be offered in the ECE curriculum. Some students also suggested installing MULTISIM software on more computers around campus.

- Course issues i.e. some students complained about certain classes, and in particular, about the professors teaching those classes. Dr. Whitman – ECE 333, Dr. Russo – Physics 234, Dr. Akhtar – ECE 251, some students complained that these professors’ methods of teaching were not helping them with the courses. For ECE 271, some students suggested that more sections be included, and not having Dr. Levkov alone handle the only two available sections. Students also suggested that Physics 234 be removed from the Curriculum, as it seemed to be a redundant prerequisite to ECE 361. Finally, some students also complained about the lab course ECE 395; according to them, they were not actually learning much in the Lab course. Also, the software on the computers was not up to date with the current ARM software required to do the lab.

Some of the answers Dr. Booshoo and Dr. Sosnowski were able to give included:

- Programming related issues: They explained that the current course load ECE students were required to take was already demanding, and that including additional programming courses to the curriculum may not be the best move. They suggested that students who really wanted to improve their programming skills, went ahead to pick a minor in computer science.
- Course related issues: According to Dr. Boodhoo and Dr. Sosnowski, some of the professors which the students complained about stated that majority of the students were not willing to work very hard to learn the material. However, the reps. from the department promised to discuss these issues, and note where necessary corrections needed to be made.

Dr. Boodhoo and Dr. Sosnowski suggested that some of the issues raised were not specific, and that the department’s administration needed more specifics to be able to take more concrete steps in making required changes. As such, the student senate reps. came up with the idea of sending out surveys that would provide them with more specifics and a statistical report which encompasses the contributions of all the students in the ECE department. They hope to provide a final report based on the feedback they get from the surveys which they plan on sending out as soon as possible.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Finance Hearings:

*NJIT Robotics Club is requesting $748.98 for two robots from their event.*

*SWEET (Society of Women Engineers) is requesting $209.00 for decorations, food and giveaways.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Meeting 3.26.14 in room 240

Health and Fitness week is going on now!

- Tonight- Dodgeball tournament
- Thursday- Rockwall and obstacle course
- Friday- Zumba Party

Monday is St. Patrick’s day and the Senior Class' pub night

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.*

As submitted by:
Michael Bebawy (Recording Secretary)