Student Senate Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday March 26th, 2014

Present: Johnathan Weiss (President), Axel Geoffroy Kouassi (Vice President of Administration), Jennifer Farah (Vice President of Finance), Oscar Chang (Treasurer), Michael Bebawy (Recording Secretary), Benita Benjamin (Corresponding Secretary), Amanda Redden (Senior Class President), Anthony Samaha (College of Architecture and Design), Arsalan Khan (College of Engineering), Scott Lieberman (Applied Physics), John Vito d’Antonio-Bertagnoli (Biomedical Engineering), Jennifer Ligo (Chemical Engineering), Philip Zurek (Computer Engineering), William Busarello (Digital Design), Victor Aladele (Electrical Engineering), Gabrielle Rejouis (History), Rafal Kierznowski (Information Technology), Vivian Hawn (Resident), Darshan Patel (Freshmen Resident), Lenerson Pyrrhus (Freshmen Resident), Magid Youssef (Commuter) and Monica Ghabour (Freshman Commuter).

Late: Arthur Midianga (School of Management) and Kareem Fayek (Human Computer Interaction),

Absent: Jake Campbell (Vice President of Student Affairs), Alpha Jalloh (Junior Class President), Angel Plaza (Freshmen Class President), Ayaz Uddin (College of Computing Sciences), Thomas Anderson (College of Science and Liberal Arts), Kevin Chen (Biology), Sarika Munir (Chemistry), Rajeet Das (Civil Engineering), and Cady Kagume (Industrial Engineer).

Non Senators: Eladio Ruiz

Point of Privilege:

The meeting was called to order at 2:42 pm.

MINUTES

MOTION (Darshan Patel, Magid Youssef): To approve the minutes of March 12th, 2014. MOTION PASSES.

REPORTS

Guest Reports:
Eladio Ruiz, Director of Special Events:

For commencement we really do try to listen to the student body and if you guys have any ideas please let us know, we don’t really say know to stuff its usually someone else that says no. So if you guys have any ideas please send them over.

We went to this conference called NAKO were we see what other universities are doing for commencement. A big idea that was circling was this idea of involving faculty in commencement. So we’ve developed this letter to give to graduating seniors, who in turn would give it to faculty members that have impacted them during their years at NJIT. It reads "As we celebrate our accomplishments here at NJIT, we acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the faculty. These accomplishments as and future successes would not be possible without our mutual efforts and sacrifices. Commencement is a day we wish to share and celebrate with you, our educators, mentors and friends." Underneath that it gives the faculty some information that they need about commencement.

We printed 500 invitations and will be leaving 250 with the student senate. We hope that you could help us spread the word and invite faculty.

President Reports:

Johnathan Weiss, President:

Please remember that you must fillout the elections packet even if you are nominated for a position. This is do next Wednesday at 5:00 pm.

Jake and myself had a meeting with Dr. Fey last week and several things were discussed. Among the topics that were brought up was the concept of students pressuring each other to keep the campus looking nice and not deliberately ruining aspects of the campus.

I have a meeting on Thursday with Lenny, the Director of Athletics. If anyone has any topics or issues regarding athletics please let me know so that I can bring it up during the meeting.

Executive Reports:

Axel Geoffroy Kouassi, Vice President of Administration:

The Search Committee has come up with four candidates to replace the vice-president of facility management. The candidate, Andrew Chris will be coming to campus on March 27th 2014. He is going to meet with the senior leaders of the
We are currently working on a Google Doc where any student could report any issues they are having on campus.

Benita Benjamin, Corresponding Secretary:

To increase awareness for elections we are going to be handing out little flyers.

College Reports:

Ayaz Uddin, College of Computing Sciences:

IT 201: Curriculum needs to be updated. → One section is almost entirely about flash.

IT 201: Professor Mura Deek needs to change Saturday exams because it is very hard for some students to come in due to work and other obligations.

IT 202: The curriculum needs to be finalized before the start of the semester.

IT 490: Needs videos. It’s busy work.

IT 490 needs to be held in the summer as well.

IT 490: Post online lectures.

CS 113: Professor Gahani rambles on about slides and students fall asleep.

CS 332/CS 113 - Speak with Professor Qwestal about his class. Students say that his classes are very boring. They say it’s hard to pay attention because he goes off topic.

CS 252: Students have no idea what is going on in this class. Many say that the readings are very boring. The professor only talks from the power point. Low level hardware.

CS 288: Professor John Soann. The homework doesn’t get graded, which is assigned after the exams so it doesn’t meet any criteria. Grades are unknown because they are withheld.

CS 407: Resume workshop class is pointless. Complete rehash of CS 207. Need to be changed to make it less like CS 207 or remove the class → George Olsen could be a problem.
CS 434: Professor Thoratos. Needs to post due dates ahead of Schedule.

IS 350: The professor needs to stick on topic. He tends to go on about random topics. The class is poorly designed. → Professor Richard Shooler.

IS 350: With Shooler. Keeps grades in the gradebook and dose not tell students so the grade is unknown to students until the end of the semester.

IS 373: Very boring class. It is hard to pay attention in that class.

CCS Capstone - Speak to Eljibiri, about rambling on in class.

CCS Needs a networking lab. Nothing in the department is applied. → Speak to Fadi Deek and Deans

Students say professors only read off of power points.

Need more online and summer courses.

Game Design Concentration too dependent on Individual Studies.

Keith Williams: Does not teach well. Has projects passed due. He has not taught HTML or CSS. Assigns projects that he has not taught. Yells at students if question the student asks is too basic. Tries to convince students to work for him. Teaches all the web courses including CS 117, CS 118, CS 217, CS 218. Bareky codes. Students feel as though they need another option.

Arsalan Khan, College of Engineering:

The search for a Dean for the College of Engineering has been limited to an internal search, will keep you guys updated

Couldn’t hold a formal feedback session for the Mechanical Engineering Department. However I had an informal feedback session, had almost 30 responses, the feedback has been very good.

Arthur Midianga, School of Management:

I held the SOM feedback session on 3/15/14 GITC 2370 and about 3 students there (Dean and Adviser weren’t available that week). Attached is my report from the Feedback Session. It was a short meeting just some general ideas that have been discussed. We came to the consensus that the SOM is really pushing to get more students and has been gaining awareness on campus over this past semester. Also, that they is still need to recruit more SOM students and get more involved on
campus. There will be a follow up session hopefully in about a week or two with the Dean in attendance + SOM advisor Micheal Sweeney. It will be similar to last semester where the first feedback session had a small turnout and then a follow up feedback session invites professors and students. Plus, business club will be there as well.

Tonight, will be a Networking Event 6pm-9pm in the Ballroom where students will get to interact with NJIT alumni. Not sure if it's too late to register through CDS site, but it would be good try for anyone in Senate.

Also, April 2 the day before NJIT Experience Day, myself and a couple of students in SOM will be working with admissions to reach out to and call students who are going to NJIT but haven't committed to a major and reaching out to them and giving them information and getting a gauge on what they want to do.

In addition, the Business Club will be holding E-Board Elections today from 2:30-4 in Kupf 117. I'm guessing it's a little too late but if not all positions are filled but you can send in your name to Micheal Sweeney. Business Club is open to all students.

I will also being going to an Investment Management group that is forming interest meeting. The club will work with professor Elrich who will be helping out a couple students who learn how to invest in stocks and analyze one over the semester. Not sure if it will form into an actual club in the future, but just visiting and checking things. They meet every Friday from 11:30-1 in Kupfrian 202. Anyone is also able to join.

James Barr

Students have now started the actual tax portion of the VITA (voluntary income tax assistance) program in Newark. Everything we have done up to last week was training and testing. We had our first day last Friday and were fairly successful. There are now students going to the site regularly to volunteer. Over the next three weeks we expect 10-15 students to volunteer over 30 hours each. As I have stated before volunteers who achieve over 30 hours will get a certificate of internship from the IRS. More importantly we (NJIT) are visibly reaching out and doing good things for the community around us and those less fortunate.

I have been working with the SOM to establish a dedicated student run investment portfolio. Last week we had a meeting to discuss the best way to run this. We have established a good plan and now need to figure out if we will do this as a part of the business club, run it through the student chapter of NYSSA or create its own club. Much of this will be determined Friday after we hold a general interest meeting at 11:30 in Lier. I will be sending out an email to all SOM student later today but students majoring in Financial mathematics and engineering have also
expressed interest. Will the reps who would like to pass this along to their constituents reach out to me so I could forward them the E-mail so they could pass it along to their mailing lists (witch they all should have).

Ideally members would be part of this for their entire time at NJIT working from a junior analyst as a freshman to analyst, sector manager and general advisor. We have also spoken to professors and have a few who would like to work with us on this as faculty advisors. We are hoping that within a year we can have real money in this portfolio. My goal is to do everything I can to help get this thing running before graduation as this would be great for students who would be involved.

Because this is a long term program freshman and sophomores are encouraged to attend.

Senator Reports:

Gabrielle Rejouis, History:

Dr. Sher (Department Chair)

- Snow Day Effects
  - Keep Spring Break
  - Avoid interference with Spring Break/Final Exams >> mess up flights, these are too expensive
  - Don’t wait until the last minute to decide
  - Assumed professor’s would make-up classes
  - History professors are not underwater, classes out of sync is the only concern
  - Suggestion: Change last day from Friday to the day most frequently missed; Take out the reading day

- Shared Governance going into Fall 2014
  - Concern with the Student representative; conflict in time between Shared Governance meeting and Student Senate time
  - Suggestion: have Shared Governance be a non-credit class worked into the schedule. This way both professors and the student rep. will not have a conflict with class and the meeting time as opposed to scheduling it during the Wednesday Common Hour.

- Business Law (MGMT 290 and MGMT 360/Legal Aspects in Engineering (IE 447)
  - same material, IE is the problem

- Course Evaluation
  - number of students participating plummets
- faculty have to approve electronic version
- enforcement suggestion: withhold grades with no opt-out
- affects salary

- Phi Alpha Theta (May 5th): History Honors Society

Prof. Pemberton
- CSLA Dean Search
  - down to 5 candidates
  - campus interviews coming up
  - hopefully have a Dean by September

Prof. O’Rourke (Academic Advisor)
- Fall Schedule opens March 17th (Start of Spring Break)
- Registration opens March 31st
- Not enough time for advisement
- Final exam schedule and room assignment (similar to Rutgers)

Prof. Lefkovitz (LTC Director / Legal Studies Advisor)
- Department received sponsors for LSAT course, limited class size
- Get University to sponsor test prep
  - precedent > EOP got Kaplan to reduce tuition by \( \frac{1}{3} \) but it got cancelled
  - University’s rankings get affected by placement after graduation

Department Needs
- CDS
  - “all majors” > sort which is better for which major
  - find varieties in “all majors”
  - could CDS tap professors for internships/co-ops for more career/major specific

Senate Concerns
- Commencement
  - Do faculty have a role in commencement?
  - History faculty go to commencement to support students, can’t find them because of the volume of people
  - Don’t have funds for a reception like COAD to involve faculty and graduates
- Recycling Committee
  - Column in Vector > publicize to student body, mobilize administration to address student’s concerns
- Student Services
  - Center of Counseling and Psychological Services: more flexible hours or have a counselor with a lighter load to accommodate emergencies

Senate Projects
- Campus Wide Printing
  - 400 pages will not be enough for History courses
- Crosswalk on Lock St.
  - Prof. Pemberton alluded to Newark’s disapproval of the crosswalk
  - Would be helpful for professors/students who take the train
- Parking
  - Request: have unpaved lots paved
  - Nails and other debris hidden in the gravel can damage tires

Lenerson Pyrrhus, Freshmen Resident:
On March 25, 2014 I held my Feedback Session for Cypress residents. I decided to go with an unconventional method and went up to multiple Cypress residents asking them two questions. The first question was how you would rate your first and second semester as Cypress resident? How they felt on their overall experience. I received mostly good feedback from the freshmen class. My second question was how you would rate the maintenance of the building for your first and second semester? Most people complained about the constant breaking of our elevators and not enough control by the resident assistants for noise by others.

Scott Lieberman, Applied Physics:
The Physics Feedback Session was held on Wednesday, March 12 from 2:30-4:30 in Tiernan 401. About 15 students were in attendance. Several complaints were made about certain professors.
Several students suggested bringing Quantum Mechanics, the only required course that is taught at Rutgers-Newark, to NJIT so the physics department can have better control over the textbook used and the professor teaching the course.

Some complaints were also made regarding Physics 450, Advanced Physics Lab. Students claim the professor repeatedly switched them between labs, equipment did not work, and that the course is unorganized. A student claimed an OPSE lab class was similarly unorganized, and better equipment and clearer instructions were desired.

Some students also stated that the quality of advising is not sufficient and that they did know what classes were required for the major.

Students would like the department to run more classes that are on the course catalog, such as Fluid and Plasma Dynamics (Phys 444), Semiconductor Physics (Phys 448), Computational Physics (Phys 485), Modern Optics (Phys 443), a class on electronics, and a class in solar physics. These classes are almost never run, and are often cancelled when offered. Students also stated classes they need to take for concentrations are cancelled often, and they would support a system where one needs to take a certain total number of electives, instead of electives in a certain concentration.

Students also stated that, for double majors in math and physics, the mathematical physics course, Mathematical Methods for Scientists and Engineers (Math 328) is redundant since the students already must take Calculus IIIb, Partial Differential Equations, and Complex Variables for the math major.

A student also complained that the way Electromagnetics II (Phys 433) is scheduled is detrimental to student progress. It is currently a 3 hour long class on Friday at 8:30am. The student said that 3 hours is too long for such a class; it should be two 1.5 hour classes instead. Phys 433 was also a 3 hour-long course the previous academic year.

This information will be communicated to the chair of the department. Any questions regarding the content of this report can be sent to sl277@njit.edu.

**Darshan Patel, Freshmen Resident:**

On Tuesday, March 24th, I held the Honors Residence Hall feedback session. The turnout was minimal, however there were a few similarities between this session and the Fall '13 session. Residents found the elevators to be an issue (to address it, I will
be posting signs that say not to fool around in the elevators). The crosswalk has been a huge 'plus' for students as it helps them cross and more cars are abiding by it. One question that was brought up was why there was no entrance from within the building between the restaurants, the convenience store, the lobby, and the gym. I have yet to meet with Mouna Moussa to discuss this issue and receive an answer. Overall, the feedback session was decent.

**Vivian Hawn, Resident:**

On March 25, 2014, I held a residents feedback session in Laurel. I had a Laurel Hall Council member present, and about 30 students showed up.

The main complaints were many ignored maintenance reports; disgusting conditions of the showers, rugs, and rooms in general when first moving in; that we have 2 Pizzeria's on campus; heating and A/C problems; dryer issues; elevator issues; and the lack of liveliness and furniture in the lounges. RHA and Laurel Hall Council are currently working on many of these problems, and improvements should be underway shortly. However, the pizzeria's may not be changed, for during the planning of the building, it was decided that a pizzeria seems like the easiest use of the relatively small space and, pizza seems to sell better than most other commodities.

**John Vito d’Antonio-Bertagnoli, Biomedical Engineering:**

Strategic Planning Committee has developed its first draft for NJIT’s 20 20 division. It’s a 57 page document that has large implications for the student body in the near future. If anyone wants to read it John can forward it to you.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Finance Hearings:**

*MOTION (Scott Lieberman, Arsalan Khan): To approve Society of Women Engineers for their Annual Networking Award Reception for $200.00. MOTION PASSES.*

*MOTION (Lenerson Pyrrhus, Monica Ghabour): To approve Highlander Chess Club for $100.00. MOTION PASSES.*
New Clubs:

*MOTION (Arsalan Khan, William Busarello): To approve NJIT Siggraph as a Y-club. MOTION PASSES.*

Senate Nominations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
<th>Nominator 1</th>
<th>Nominator 2</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Alpha Jalloh</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Amanda Redden</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President of Administration</td>
<td>Axel Geoffroy</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kouassi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin Chen</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President of Finance</td>
<td>Jen Farah</td>
<td>Monica Ghabour</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oscar Chang</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Decline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President of Student Affairs</td>
<td>Jake Campbell</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Arsalan Khan</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anthony Samaha</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Oscar Chang</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Michael Bebawy</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
<td>Rajeet Das</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Class President</td>
<td>Alpha Jalloh</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Class President</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Monica Ghabour</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin Chen</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Arthur Midianga</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore Class President</td>
<td>Monica Ghabour</td>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Arsalan Khan</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angel Plaza</td>
<td>Amanda Redden</td>
<td>Anthony Samaha</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Architecture &amp; Design</td>
<td>Anthony Samaha</td>
<td>William Busarelo</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Science &amp; Liberal Arts</td>
<td>Kevin Chen</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabrielle Rejouis</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Defer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newark College of Engineering</td>
<td>Victor Aladele</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajeet Das</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>Defer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Management Biology</td>
<td>Arthur Midianga</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Gabrielle Rejouis</td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>Jennifer Ligo</td>
<td>Scott Lieberman</td>
<td>Victor Aladele</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Monica Ghabour</td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Defer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Sarika Munir</td>
<td>Jennifer Ligo</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>Rajeet Das</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Engineering</td>
<td>Philip Zurek</td>
<td>Victor Aladele</td>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Design</td>
<td>William Busarelo</td>
<td>Anthony Samaha</td>
<td>Lenerson Pyrrhus</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>Victor Aladele</td>
<td>Philip Zurek</td>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Gabrielle Rejouis</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Computer Interaction</td>
<td>Kareem Fayek</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Rafal Kierznowski</td>
<td>Accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Engineering</td>
<td>Cady Kagume</td>
<td>Gabrielle Rejouis</td>
<td>Magid Youssef</td>
<td>Defer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>John Vito</td>
<td>Decline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Monica Ghabour</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Defer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Ligo</td>
<td>Vivian Hawn</td>
<td>Darshan Patel</td>
<td>Defer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At next meeting all nominees must either Accept or Decline their positions. Also the elections packet is due right after the meeting on 4.2.14, everything must be filled out except the signatures.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Meeting 4.2.14 in room 240

Senator of the Month: Angel Plaza

Next week is debates, the week after is the meeting run by the new senate

John will be meeting with Dr. Fey if anyone has any questions that they want brought up email John

Semi Formal is coming up, if anyone can help table please get in contact with Amanda

Academic Resources Committee has a meeting tomorrow if any senators could make it please get in contact with Gabrielle Rejouis

**ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION (Darshan Patel, Lenerson Pyrrhus): To adjourn the meeting of Wednesday March 26th, 2014. MOTION PASSES*

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.*

As submitted by:
Michael Bebawy (Recording Secretary)