Guest Speakers

Dr. Fadi Deek, Provost:

Hello everybody. I am Provost Deek, and I’m grateful to be given an opportunity to speak to you all. It has been a long time since I was in a classroom-setting. There once was a time when I spent a lot of time in a classroom. Unfortunately, the role of the provost is very different. My formal title is Provost and Senior Executive Vice President, which means I serve in two roles. The first, that of the Provost, is the Chief Academic Officer. The second, that of the Senior Executive Vice President, is the Chief Operating Officer of the University. Organizationally, the university is headed by the president, followed by the provost and executive vice president, and the various functional areas of the university, also led by their own vice presidents. My division also has the academic leaders of the university, the deans. There are six academic colleges at our university, each of which is headed by a dean. Under them are department chairs – one for every department at our university. What I would like to focus on today is the 2020 Vision. We call it so because we are so certain that we know what our university should be like by the year 2020. It ought to be one of the best universities of science and technology, among the best polytechnic universities in the country. There are a number of things that we must do in order to achieve this, as is outlined throughout the 2020 Vision. There are five priorities, the first of which is students – our most important asset. The second is learning, which is so important for students. The third is research, which for many of you is the reason you came to NJIT because you know of the many opportunities you have to engage in it. As students, you should be able to reach whatever milestones you set out to accomplish, regardless of what they may be, and as administrators, we work towards making those goals attainable. The fourth is community, which is a composition of who we are and the community we will build for ourselves. The fifth is the investments that we want to make within NJIT in order to succeed. That is our 2020 Vision for our university. I will gladly come back if invited to speak again on this topic, however I would now like to open the floor for questions that you all may have for me.

A question and answer session followed, including discussion of the following topics:

- Curriculum adjustments as part of the 2020 Vision
- Convergence of face-to-face and distance learning
- Expansion of the NJIT community beyond its current borders both in regards in to physical and digital space
- The role of Senators as representatives of their constituents in achieving the 2020 Vision

Charlie Nieves, Director of Physical Plant:

Hello everyone. My name is Charlie Nieves, and I am the Director of Physical Plant here at NJIT. Just to give you guys a brief overview of what I do and what I’m responsible for – over the summer, we go into the classrooms and dorms and attempt to do as many repairs as we possibly can with the budget that we’re given. Every year, I’m given a fiscal budget that must be broken up between painting, grounds maintenance, and any other repairs that fall under my responsibilities. Has anyone been over to ECE 100 or 115. We did a lot of work in there replacing the carpet, painting the walls, and putting in new chairs. We’re waiting on some new boards to be put up as well once they come in. This is just an example of what we’re trying to do to retrofit older buildings. Additionally, this is one way that we’re trying to attract and also retain students here at our university. We are trying to adapt NJIT to the way that you guys are learning. It is no longer always just sitting the way you guys are right now – sometimes you break off into
groups and utilize other methods to learn. We would like to do a lot more than we are available, however, like I said, we’ve got a limited budget and a limited staff. My new boss, Andrew Christ, is both an undergraduate and graduate alum, and he’s very interested in moving the school forward. You guys are tremendously lucky to have Fadi Deek as your Provost and Joel Bloom as your President – both will willingly be the first to step and do whatever they can for you. However, I just want to clarify that we are not ignoring your requests for some of the things you’ve asked for. Our resources are limited, but we are trying to address your concerns as best we can. Someone had asked earlier what you guys can do to help us – well, my request is that since this is your house, you treat it like that. If you see something on the ground when it should belong in a recycling or trash bin, help out by picking it up and encourage your fellow classmates to do the same. It makes it difficult to move forward when I’m having to deal with small issues throughout the campus that could easily be avoided. With that, I’ll open up the floor for any questions that you may have.

A question and answer session followed, including discussion of the following topics:

- Why such dire circumstances are present for a significant number of places throughout campus
- Goals for repairs and general campus improvements for this academic year
- The allocation of funds between renovations and the hiring of faculty

Present: Rajee Das (President), Michael Bebawy (Vice President of Administration), Jennifer Farah (Vice President of Finance), John Vito d’Antonio-Bertagnolli (Vice President of Student Affairs), Rukayat Balogun (Treasurer), Darshan Patel (Recording Secretary), Dorothy Chau (Corresponding Secretary), Kaelyn Gamel (Senior Class President), Lenerson Pyrrhus (Junior Class President), Kelvin Siebeng (Sophomore Class President), Patrick Quinn (Freshman Class President), Anthony Samaha (College of Architecture and Design), Al-Rashid Jamalul (College of Computing Sciences), Atharva Dhole (College of Science and Liberal Arts), Kamal Raghibi (Newark College of Engineering), Cynthia Ahmed (School of Management), Ashley Betts (Architecture), Siddharth Thiruvalluvan (Bioinformatics), Alisha Matreja (Biology), Neha Syal (Biomedical Engineering), Julia Sun (Business and Information Systems), Awais Qazi (Business Management), Hari Ravichandran (Chemical Engineering), Lahiru Pathirage (Civil Engineering), Marino Duran (Computer Engineering), Steve Diaz (Computer Science), William Busarello (Digital Design), Kaila Trawitzki (Engineering Technology), Chirag Arya (History), Wuraola Oggunnowo (Industrial Design), Martyn Mendyuck (Industrial Engineering), Anthony Pereira (Information Technology), William Ruys (Mathematical Sciences), Anthony DeRitis (Mechanical Engineering), Amy Ng (Science, Technology and Society), Lea Burlew (Theatre, Arts and Technology), Pritinder Singh (Web and Information Systems), Mark Neubauer (Resident), Harshit Ratanpara (Freshman Resident), Sandra Sawires (Commuter) and Sarah Ahmad (Freshman Commuter).

Absent: Dylan Renaud (Applied Physics), Joshua Olayinka (Computing and Business) and Mansi Sheth (Freshman Resident).
Point of Privilege: Jennifer Farah (Vice President of Finance), Rukayat Balogun (Treasurer) and Alisha Matreja (Biology).

Non Senators: Robert Moran

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

MINUTES
The minutes of September 16, 2015 were approved.

REPORTS
President’s Report:
Rajeet Das, President

This past weekend, the NJIT Student Senate attended their annual Fall Leadership Retreat to Frost Valley YMCA Camp. They were absolutely spectacular and gained a lot of knowledge about their position in addition to bonding with one another. They had the opportunity to meet with their committees, their colleges, and as a whole, in order to set up goals for the semester. We really missed those who were not able to make it. Every Senator will be holding themselves accountable for ensuring that those who did not attend the retreat feel comfortable with everything that is going on.

Executive Reports:
John Vito d’Antonio-Bertagnolli, Vice President of Student Affairs

Public Safety Lighting Walk
7:00-9:00pm, Thursday September 17th 2015
Senators in Attendance: Amy Ng (Science, Technology and Society)
Public Safety Representatives: Chief Joseph Marswillio and six other officers

Report: The Lighting Walk continues to show just how far campus lighting has come since three years ago. The progress in Tiernan Alley and the University Center side of the Athletic Center are model examples of what the Public Safety Office is capable of, providing safe, well-lit environments that exude safety. Of note this year, some of the high-powered LED light boxes that were purchased last year seem to have blown themselves out; however, they are still covered under warranty, and will be replaced as soon as possible. Additionally, tree coverage continues to be an issue. Each year, tree trimming requests are sent in, and completed, but the same trees are not maintained throughout the year, leading to insufficient lighting in some otherwise well lit areas. Areas for potential improvement include the stairs up to the front of Eberhardt Hall, and the front of CKB, facing Kupfrian. We’ll try to organize another walk at the beginning of next semester for a progress update.

NEW BUSINESS
SAFRB Proposals:

MOTION (Atharva Dhole, Cynthia Ahmed): To approve the NJIT Vegetable Garden proposal for SAFRB consideration. MOTION FAILS.
MOTION (Awais Qazi, Mark Neubauer): To approve the IE Course Materials proposal for SAFRB consideration. MOTION FAILS.

MOTION (Mark Neubauer, Cynthia Ahmed): To approve the @NJIT: A Curated Exhibition proposal for SAFRB consideration. MOTION PASSES.

MOTION (Marino Duran, Kamal Raghibi): To approve the Martial Arts Gym Equipment proposal for SAFRB consideration. MOTION PASSES.

MOTION (Atharva Dhole, Kamal Raghibi): To approve the NJIT Warren Street Gym proposal for SAFRB consideration. MOTION PASSES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Senate Hangout: Please check your emails for a poll regarding what day(s) work best for a Senate Hangout session.
- Frost Valley Feedback Evaluation: Michael Bebawy sent out an anonymous survey for the Executive Board to get your feedback regarding the different aspects of Frost Valley. Please try to complete that at your earliest convenience.
- Freshman Weekend is from 9/25 to 9/27. Please sign up for only one shift so that all senators are able to assist during the weekend. If you have any questions, contact Rukayat.
- A team for Highlander Games, October 10th, will be formed so that we may compete. Please contact Rajeet if you would like to participate.
- HighlanderThon is hosting their annual barbecue outside on the plaza. Please try to stop by and show your support.
- A Facebook group was created so that we can informally contact each other. Please continue uploading photographs and videos from this past weekend.
- Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

MOTION (Atharva Dhole, Kelvin Siebeng): To adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, September 23, 2015. MOTION PASSES.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

As submitted by:

Darshan Patel (Recording Secretary)