GUEST SPEAKERS
Andrew Christ, Vice President of Real Estate Development and Capital Operations:

Hello everyone. Thank you for having me here today. My name is Andrew Christ, and I am the Vice President of Real Estate Development and Capital Operations. I want to discuss a few things related to operations and then delve into the major projects for this campus. At NJIT, we have many areas of concern, including roof leaks, faulty HVAC systems, worn-out carpets, broken and mismatched furniture, and some unattractive landscaping. To combat these ailments, we have a systematic plan in place. For the short-term, we want to begin with replacing our outdated furniture. If anyone has taken a class in the ECE building, you will have seen the new desks, the improved lighting, and the new technology being incorporated into the classroom such as automated projector screens. Regarding landscaping, we began by improving the parking lot behind FMH and are continuing to upgrade the signage and parking spots. As far as signage is concerned, we’re attempting to make a destination point out of NJIT by using signs to outline our campus. Campus directories are the next step in our plan, as we are working towards getting newer, updated signs placed throughout campus.

The State of New Jersey has been funding capital projects for higher-education institutions over the past few years. The single largest project, the Central King Building, was awarded $100 million for capital improvements. You may have already seen the improvements to the third and fourth floors – the rest of the building will resemble those floors within a few years. The second project is the new parking garage that will be built off of Lock Street. This garage will hold 900 parking spaces and allow us to close down the surrounding lots. The next project is the Life Sciences and Engineering building, which will allow us to expand research and science education at NJIT. The Events and Wellness Center is our biggest project. The new facility will house a swimming pool, an arena with accommodations for up to 4500 people, multiple basketball courts, a fitness center and multipurpose spaces. This project will be built upon Lubetkin Field. The Green will be converted into the new Lubetkin Field. A question and answer session followed, including discussion of the following topics:

• Improvements being made to buildings currently existing on campus
• The Events and Wellness Center
• Future projects involving housing and commercial spaces

ATTENDANCE
Present: Rajeet 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), Dorothy Chau (Corresponding Secretary), Kaelyn Gamel (Senior Class President), Lenerson Pyrrhus (Junior 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), Cynthia Ahmed
Absent: Kelvin Siebeng (Sophomore Class President), Kamal Raghibi (Newark College of Engineering) and Wuraola Ogunnowo (Industrial Design).

Late: Darshan Patel (Recording Secretary) and Amy Ng (Science, Technology and Society).

Non Senators: Robert Moran

Point of Privilege: Jennifer Farah (Vice President of Finance), Rukayat Balogun (Treasurer), Dylan Renaud (Applied Physics) and Pritinder Singh (Web and Information Systems).

The meeting was called to order at 2:38pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of September 30, 2015 were approved.

REPORTS

President’s Report:

Rajeet Das, President

Student Activities Fun Review Board – Balance Fund Committee

In attendance: Rajeet Das, Dr. Charlie Fey, Jean Feeney, Albert Martinez, Andrea Connell, Edward Bishof Sr., Laura Valente, Kathryn Nyby, Aidan McGourty, Jake Campbell, Joseph Parinello, Ashley Fitzsimmons, Narain Gehani.
On Friday, 9 October 2015, the Student Activities Fund Review Board, Balance Fund Committee (SAFRB - BFC) met to discuss three student proposals approved by the NJIT Student Senate at their meeting on Wednesday, 23 September 2015. The MMA Proposal (informal name) submitted by Mark Neubauer was approved conditionally. The committee felt that the personal body equipment and wrestling mats would be unsanitary. However, the fighting bags were approved and are currently being reviewed by Athletic Director Lenny Kaplan. The Aerobic Fitness Equipment Proposal (informal name) was also approved conditionally. The committee felt that there would not be enough room or usage for the larger dumb bells and dumb bell rack in the center. However, the aerobic dumb bells, yoga mats, and mirrors were approved by the committee. Lenny Kaplan is also looking into making these purchases in the near future. Lastly, the proposal for "@NJIT: A Curated Exhibition Space" for the Campus Center 2nd Floor Gallery was not approved. The idea for trophy cases seemed dated, and the committee feared that the various owners of the cases would not consistently update the cases. The committee appreciated the idea for lounge space. It made the suggestion to propose for TV's connected to the same management systems as other departments and colleges throughout the campus such as that on the Third Floor of Fenster Hall to be placed throughout the gallery. The committee voted to meet again to review more proposals later this semester. The committee also designated Laura Valente to be the liaison for any students wishing to submit new proposals. Proposals for the next meeting will be due by email no later than Friday, 6 November 2015 to Rajeet Das at ss-pres@njit.edu. The Student Senate will review the proposals on Wednesday, 11 November 2015. The Committee will review the approved proposals on Friday, 20 November 2015.

Executive Reports:

Rukayat Balogun, Treasurer

Spirit Week was a huge success this year and would not have been so were it not for the participation and help of the senators. I would like to thank you all for the time that you contributed towards the events of Spirit Week.

Senator Reports:

Ashley Betts, Architecture

University Senate Subcommittee: Facilities

11 September, 2015, 2:00pm Fenster Hall 590

Faculty: Sheryl Baker, John Cays, Andrew Christ, Moshe Kam, Theodore Karakosmas, Scott Kent, Sharyn Serafin, Joseph F Tartaglia, Gordon Thomas, Heidi Young, Miguel Dominguez

Meeting lead by Andrew Christ

Andrew Christ disclosed the Facilities Benchmark Update and clarified our use of Sitelines which rates universities and allows us to see NJIT in comparison to various other institutions. Major Capital Projects discussed included the Central King Building, the Science and Technology Park Parking Garage, the Laboratory renovations, the Wellness and Events Center, and the Life Science and Engineering Building.

The third floor of CKB was completed in 2014 while the 4th floor is expected to be completed by January 2015. Work that still needs to be done includes the stairs, doors and entrance. The University also hopes to include murals somewhere. $20 million are budgeted for York, $100 million are budgeted for the CKB. The canopy seen in the original renderings of the CKB renovations that was to be placed at the start of
campus along Warren Street is no longer being included. Renovations of the auditorium are hopeful but not in action as they would cost approximately 5 million.

Construction of the Science and Technology Park Parking Garage started in June (begin drilling caissons) and is expected to be completed by July 2016. A webcam is to be launched to track the construction progress. A big part of the capital budget focused on prepping labs. Landscaping in front of Tiernan Hall hopes to improve the look of campus.

The Wellness and Events Center is 2 months out from groundbreaking and is expected to be completed by July 2017. The athletic field will be closed on November 12th. Some questions asked and issues with the current design as it stands is that there is a poor subway accommodation, no sense of arrival at the Warren and Lock Street corner and the entrances along Lock street are still sort of wailing the city off. The way in which they are addressing the safety issue of the 50ft wall that lines Lock Street is that there will be swipe-access at certain hours though it is not exclusive to students - faculty and alumni will have access, and the street level walls will be largely glass and will be illuminated at all hours. Other notable points of discussion: Tiernan Alley will be widened by 8 feet. There is no competition track in the building but there is an indoor track. And lastly it seems that the issue of arranging where all of the sports teams will be practicing isn’t entirely resolved, and there has been no concern about where students who use the field and facilities recreationally can practice. We brought up this issue at the end of last semester and proposed if an arrangement with Rutgers could be made to allow students to access their field and it hasn’t been explored yet but I reiterated this concern at the meeting and Andrew Christ said that they would contact the athletic director and see if something can be arranged.

Facilities Master Plan includes a space utilization study which is looking at using empty spaces and maximizing their use. The Facilities Condition Assessment will undergo Roof to Wall examinations and determine their expected use for life.

Open Discussion: lacking custodial support, positions lower than what it should be.

Awais Qazi, Business Management
Meeting with Dean Caudill
30 September, 2015; 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Cynthia Ahmed and I reached out to Dean Caudill to discuss the direction of the School of Management, some of the issues the School of Management is facing, and to discuss what he could do to help us and what we, as the Student Senate, could do to help him. In addition to that, we discussed holding Feedback Sessions for our constituents. We talked about some of the plans the School of Management has moving forward. We also discussed additional events for members of the School of Management, such as Internship Fairs and guest speakers. In conclusion, we gained a lot of information to move forward with and have a good vision of what should be accomplished this year.

Joshua Olayinka, Computing and Business
Meeting with Dr. Cristian Borcea, CS Department Chair
September 24th, 2015

I had a meeting with the CS chairperson this past Thursday at 4 pm. He recently became the chairperson and he said I was the first student senator that he has meet with. We talked about how we can help both CS and Computing & Business majors. One idea I proposed was to improve grades with mandatory CS 100 tutoring for all first semester freshman and he agreed with that and said he would talk about it with the heads of the CS department. We also talked about how many CS majors believe that taking engineering math classes is beneficial for challenging students intellectually. However, it is also a huge part of why many CS students drop their major and switch to IT. At the end of the meeting I told my chairperson that I will contact him and other NJIT professors/professionals to my feedback meeting in the near future. He told me that he would like me to host the feedback meeting in early November.
Meeting with Dr. Lisa Nocks of the History Department

September 24th, 2015
Cullimore 322

I met with Dr. Nocks to discuss some changes she would like to see on campus and in the history department. She did not have many complaints about the history department or on campus improvements except for the literacy rates. As a history teacher, most of her examinations involve writing essays and she has noticed throughout her time here that many of the students cannot read or write at a college level. She tried to address this issue with students in her class but most of them do not go to the writing center. In order to address this issue we thought that having free writing lessons for students through the writing center and history department would help students. Additionally, I mentioned that I was trying to revive the history club and that we can have seminars with the writing center on how to improve writing for history classes and have speakers from these organizations come to her class for a brief presentation to help address the literacy issues. At the end of the meeting we agreed to meet again sometime before the end of the semester or at the beginning of next semester to implement these changes.

Meeting with Dr. Stephen Pemberton and Ms. Maureen O’Rourke of the History Department

September 28th, 2015
Cullimore 329

I met with Dr. Pemberton, chair of the department, and Ms. O’Rourke, academic advisory, to introduce myself as the senate representative for the history department. During this meeting we discussed several topics ranging from overall issues with the university to the development of the history club. The issues they wanted to be addressed were the literacy rates and the overall camaraderie within the department. They believed that the literacy rates should be improved and we decided that it is a much bigger issue and that will only improve over time. In order to improve this situation, we would use the writing center and revived history club to facilitate seminars and lessons for writing. We also discussed the use of Cullimore room 307 as a lounge/study area for history students. This room is a room for the history department that is used for meetings and other related events and can be given for students to use to study and meet other people in their major. Finally, we discussed the benefits of having a history club. This club would bring all history enthusiasts together, boost the camaraderie on campus, and can serve as a professional society for all history majors. We decided to revive the history club with Ms. O’Rourke being the advisor of the club. We then agreed to meet once again before the semester ended.

Meeting with Dr. Alison Lefkovitz of the History Department

September 28th, 2015
Cullimore 327

I met with Dr. Lefkovitz to introduce myself as the new history representative and to see if she had anything she wanted to see changed on this campus or in the history department. Her complaints were directed towards the Registrar and Bursar’s office and how they sometimes restrict students from coming to class. She has had many issues with students not being able to come to class because there is a string of misinformation in one of these two departments and then being forced to drop the class then re-register, which only hinders their progress in the course. Then we discussed campus parking and safety and I informed her of the public safety light walks that the Senate does with public safety. She was happy to know that there are changes happening on campus to improve the overall atmosphere and safety. Additionally, she was enthusiastic to revive the history club and proposed several joint events between the
pre law society and the history club for students. At the end of the meeting we planned to meet within a month to talk about joint events for clubs.

Meeting with Ms. Maureen O’Rourke of the History Department

October 5th, 2015
Cullimore 331

I met with Ms. O’Rourke to discuss the history club and work out the details for the feedback session. We decided on the first meeting of the club and basic ideas for it. The feedback session will be held on 11/4 during common hour. During this time, we will invite all history majors and faculty and staff. This will allow for a free flow of discussion and ideas. There will be food provided and there is an expected attendance of at least 5 faculty/staff members to attend this session. We decided that the rest of the planning and coordination will be done via email and another meeting would take place the week after the feedback session to discuss the results.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Hearings:

MOTION (Jennifer Farah): To approve Society of Women Engineers for $2175 in order to fund participation at the SWE National Conference. MOTION PASSES.

MOTION (Jennifer Farah): To approve National Society of Black Engineers for $97 for their event, PCI Day. MOTION PASSES.

Clubs for Approval:

MOTION (Atharva Dhole, William Busarello): To table approval of clubs until the next meeting. MOTION PASSES.

Judicial Review:

MOTION (Rajeet Das): To remove Lenerson Pyrrhus from his position on Student Senate. MOTION FAILS.

New Senators:

MOTION (Atharva Dhole, Neha Syal): To approve Aesha Shah as the Biochemistry Representative. MOTION PASSES.

Congratulations Aesha Shah.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The following senators are being recognized for their exceptional work and involvement within the NJIT Student Senate: Kaelyn Gamel, Anthony Samaha, Awais Qazi, Julia Sun, and Jaemin Lim.
• The September Senator of the Month is William Ruys. Congratulations William.
• Please prepare reports on behalf of the colleges and committees for the next meeting.
• If you have not yet done so, please meet with your department chair to schedule a Feedback Session as soon as possible.
• OktoberFest is this Thursday, October 15th, at 9:00PM in the Highlander Pub.
• The Senate Hangout is scheduled for the evening of Friday, October 23rd. Senators are encouraged to come hangout and enjoy a movie together.
• Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.

MOTION (Atharva Dhole, Neha Syal): To adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, October 14, 2015. MOTION PASSES.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.

As submitted by:
Darshan Patel (Recording Secretary)