Student Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2015

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), Darshan Patel (Recording Secretary), Dorothy Chau (Corresponding Secretary), Kaelyn Gamel (Senior 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), Dylan Renaud (Applied Physics), Ashley Betts (Architecture), Siddharth Thiruvalluvan (Bioinformatics), Aesha Shah (Biochemistry), 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), Joshua Olayinka (Computing and Business), William Busarello (Digital Design), Jaemin Lim (Electrical Engineering), Kaila Trawitzki (Engineering Technology), Chirag Arya (History), Wuraola Ogunnowo (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), Mansi Sheth (Freshman Resident), Harshit Ratanpara (Freshman Resident) and Sandra Sawires (Commuter).

Absent: Lenerson Pyrrhus (Junior Class President), Kelvin Siebeng (Sophomore Class President), Alisha Matreja (Biology) and Sarah Ahmad (Freshman Commuter).

Late: Siddharth Thiruvalluvan (Bioinformatics).

Non Senators: Robert Moran

The meeting was called to order at 2:33pm.
MINUTES
The minutes of November 11, 2015 were approved.

REPORTS

President’s Report:
Rajeet Das, President
University Senate Meeting Report
November 11, 2015

President’s Report from Dr. Joel Bloom: Dr. Bloom says that the priority of everyone should be the students. 72% of the operation budget is supported by students. How do we know that the students are succeeding? How can we measure why we are not retaining and graduating our students? The administration should be meeting students casually and informally.

Comments/Discussion on Dr. Bloom’s reports:

• Dr. Bloom does not think that we have barrier courses, nor does he think that math is the cause of students not graduating.
• Ala Sadaghvazeri encourages the Deans of the Colleges to get involved with Freshman Seminar and community connections.
• Freshman are not receiving the care they need because the university is too focused on Graduate Research.
• Dean Urs suggests we stop comparing ourselves to last year’s statistics and start measuring against other peer universities.
• Dean Kam is interested in having monthly feedback meetings with students. Raj will be working with Murugan, President of GSA to make such meetings happen.

Committee Reports:

• The Campus Life Committee is looking at satisfaction surveys.
• The Facilities Committee reported about the major capital projects at NJIT. The presentation was very similar to that presented by Andrew Christ at the Student Senate Meeting on October 14th. The most important announcement was that the field will be closed on November 30th.
• The Information Technology committee reported on changes to the university website, new campus wide notification systems, new telephone and intercommunication devices, and digital signage on campus. Departments will be offered training to update their own pages with news, photos, etc.
• The Notification System will be able to send messages to specific groups, get messages back from students, and have non-emergency subscription based messages.
• The Human Resources Committee discussed that they are working on improving faculty selection/search committees.
• Finally, there was a vote to ensure that the chairperson of each committee should be a member of the University Senate, and that every committee has one member from the University Senate on it.

Meeting with Campus Center Director, Mr. Martinez, and Director of Physical Plant, Charlie Nieves Report
November 11, 2015

The main point of discussion was the mice throughout NJIT’s Campus Center. Mr. Martinez said that there is an exterminator who comes every Thursday, but the exterminator needs to know exactly where and when a mouse was spotted in order to properly prevent it from coming again. This means that students need to
know how to report such sightings. There will be a poster campaign around the campus center in order to inform students of the Campus Center Operations Email address, cco@njit.edu where they can report any issues. These issues will then be passed over to Physical Plant to be handled.

**Executive Reports:**

Michael Bebawy, Vice President of Administration

The Student Senate website tab labeled “Information for Senators” has been updated. It is now password-protected. The password is the same 4-digit code used to gain entry to the Student Senate Office. In that tab you will find the live attendance sheet, the report submission form and the office hour make up form. It’s becoming very difficult to remember all the people that are missing their shifts and when they would like to make it up so I figured it would be easier to just make a Google form. In the instance you have to take an exam or something comes up you need to fill out this form. I will immediately be notified by the form and will respond to you within 24 hours letting you know if everything checks out.

**College Reports:**

Atharva Dhole, College of Science and Liberal Arts

College of Science and Liberal Arts Feedback Session Report

November 6, 2015

On Friday, 6 November 2015, the College of Science and Liberal Arts feedback session was cohosted with the biochemistry representative, Aesha Shah. Approximately seven students and five faculty members were in attendance at GITC 1400 to provide feedback about specific courses, registration, and the goals of their respective departments. Pizza and water were served, and two gift cards to the NJIT bookstore were raffled. Many topics were broached by the students, including registration for certain classes and how it becomes difficult to enroll in several crucial classes simultaneously due to overlapping sections. Students requested that either more sections be offered, or that sections be shifted around to accommodate for this overlap. Additionally, faculty was also given an opportunity to speak on behalf of what they’d like to see in their students. Faculty voiced concern with how students are unaware of the various tutoring facilities on campus. A solution was proposed that students who received below a certain threshold score on midterms/common exams were be required to attend a set tutoring session and walk through the test with a certified instructor or tutor. The full report from the feedback session will be provided by Aesha Shah, who was in attendance the full extent of the event. As CSLA rep, I was walking between feedback sessions, and was only present for parts of the full discussion. The next feedback session will be in the Spring Semester.

Kamal Raghibi, Newark College of Engineering

Environmental Sciences Feedback Session Report

Unfortunately, only one Environmental Sciences student showed up before leaving prior to any significant discussion. For future feedback sessions, I will have to make sure that the department sends out more emails. Additionally, I will have to put out more flyers and maybe even get the list of students and email them myself. This feedback session was hosted in conjunction with the Mechanical Engineering Department, which went very well. Furthermore, the NJIT BAJA team showed up with 15 members to raise the attendance to 30 students+. Overall, the Mechanical Engineering feedback session provided us with substantial feedback for us to act upon.

Cynthia Ahmed, School of Management

Meeting School of Management’s Dean Caudill and Michael Sweeney

Events Occurred between September 30, 2015 and October 19, 2015

On September 30th at 4pm, Awais Qazi, the Business Management major Representative, met with Dean
Caudill to discuss feedback session plans and our plans as Senator. Through the meeting we projected many ideas/plans for this school year including a “coffee/ donuts with the Dean” session once a month, a pamphlet advertising the School of Management, a Feedback Session combined with an event (a career development type event with a speaker), and possible networking events between alumni and students. We ultimately decided to host the feedback session on November 11th at 2:30-4:00pm as Wednesday common hours was recommended by the Dean. We are currently planning to host the feedback session from 2:30-4:00pm and will have Dean Caudill, Michael Sweeney (the SOM academic advisor), as well as a number of faculty for a question and answer session with the students. We are also asking Jack Wagner, President of the Alumni Association, to give a presentation on how current students can interact with alumni and build relationships that benefit both parties. I also have been meeting with Michael Sweeney consistently to keep him updated on our progress and he will be helping us coordinate the feedback session by helping book the Leir Conference room in SOM 3rd floor, ordering food, and providing us with raffle prizes that include NJIT SOM gear.

Senator Reports:

Aesha Shah, Biochemistry
Biochemistry Feedback Session Report
November 6, 2015

The biochemistry feedback session was held with the CSLA feedback session. However, all of the faculty and administration present were from the Chemistry Department. They included Undergraduate advisor Dr. Roumania Petrova, Director of Freshmen Chemistry Dr. Bhavani Balasubramanian, Dr. Joseph Bozzelli, and Dr. Alexei Khalizov. Excluding Atharva and me, only six students were present, which is greater than in previous years. The low turn-out could be related to the fact that there was an American Chemical Society meeting at the same time and also due to the lack of representation in previous semesters.

The overall structure was informal; the students mostly discussed their issues with the professors directly for a majority of the time, while there was a break after 30 minutes for refreshments. Any questions students had, were answered either by Dr. Petrova or a faculty member. The most prevalent concern students had was registration. Currently, the chemistry course schedule for the spring semester is either missing classes needed for graduation or the classes conflict. This proposes a problem for graduating seniors, who would have to stay for an extra year if the schedule is not fixed. Dr. Petrova discussed this issue and claimed that it is currently in the process of being resolved by the department and the registrar. Also, students discussed the possibility of using Rutgers equivalent of courses as replacement in the event the schedule is not fixed. However, it seems that this is not a possibility as Rutgers chemistry courses do not equate to the NJIT versions. Another problem that was mentioned was how the paradigm on the NJIT website for biochemistry/chemistry/environmental science majors is currently not updated. The paradigm implies that students need to take some classes that are no longer offered or indicates how classes are offered during the wrong semester. Dr. Petrova claimed that the department is aware of the problem and has been trying to fix it for the last few years. She also stressed the importance of meeting with her before registration to elucidate any confusion.

Another concern that was discussed was the low averages on freshman chemistry common exams (chem 121/125). According to Dr. Balasubramanian, the average for the last common was around 40%. She feels as though students are not taking advantage of the resources offered to them, such as those on Moodle, the Chemistry Learning Center, or the textbook. One of the suggestions made by the students was to follow the Math Department’s example, and have students who fail to meet a certain threshold on an exam, attend a mandatory meeting with a chemistry tutor to have their exam reviewed. This system ensures that a student is forced to go over their mistakes and seek outside help to help improve for the next exam. Dr. Balasubramanian is considering implementing this system for the next semester. Another suggestion was to improve on the structure of the course by enforcing more concept based learning rather than problem based learning to help build on the fundamentals of chemistry for future chemistry classes and graduate
exams. When asked if this could be a possibility, Dr. Balasubramanian replied that currently the department has restructured Chem 121, which is geared towards engineers and non-majors, to accommodate for the fact that it is a GUR for these students. However, she replied that this is currently not a possibility for Chem-125, which is recommended for those students pursuing upper-level chemistry classes.

Other discussion included upper classmen answering questions that freshman students had, and giving them general advice on the major and department. Overall, the feedback session concluded with a raffle for two NJIT Bookstore gift cards. Hopefully, the department takes these ideas and concerns into consideration and we can see improvement in the department by the next year.

Neha Syal, Biomedical Engineering

Biomedical Engineering Feedback Session
November 6, 2015

The feedback session was co-hosted with BMES, and it officially began at 11:40 AM and ended at 1:30 PM. We worked together to advertise for the feedback session with flyers and through email reminders. The purpose of the BME feedback session was to give students an opportunity to voice their concerns, ideas, and suggestions for the BME department and to give faculty the opportunity to respond to these opinions. The first half hour of the feedback was reserved as a student only segment of the feedback session, and it gave students the opportunity to openly voice their opinions without the presence of BME faculty. At 12:00 PM, faculty members came to the meeting, and the comments that were noted during the first half hour were directly addressed to the faculty members.

Below is a summary of the main concerns addressed during the feedback session:

1) Offer more BME undergraduate Honors courses.
2) More manageable, realistic curriculum for Pre-Health BME students
3) Introductory BME classes are difficult for transfer students to take because they conflict with upper level BME classes during scheduling
4) Look for other hospitals to create programs similar to the St. Barnabus observership program
5) Update curriculum forms for biomechanics and bioinstrumentation
6) BME 310 is a redundant course
7) MTSE 301 and BME 304 are very similar courses and should be combined
8) BME 301 syllabus needs to be revamped to have more emphasis on the practical side of building circuits
9) All BMEs need a stronger physiology foundation
10) BME version of CS 101
11) More BME electives
12) More active tutoring with HMBES
13) Better 3D printer for BME 383

Each of these points was directly addressed to Dr. Pfister, Dr. Alvarez, Dr. Erdi, and Ms. Penelope Georges. They informed students of the improvements they can make in the department and how they will work to make these improvements. The next feedback session will take place in Spring 2016, where I hope that faculty members will present some of the solutions to the problems addressed during this feedback session.
Julia Sun, Business and Information Systems

Business and Information Systems Feedback Session

November 4, 2015

I emailed every individual in the department about the feedback session two weeks before, the week before after creating a nice flier, and also the day of as a reminder. Other email advertising included the IS Club to their member and Serena Branson to all of CCS. I advertised in as many of my classes as I could.

Pritinder and I held a feedback session November 4th 2015. Food included 6 pies of pizza, a pan of mozzarella sticks, and a case of water bottles. The Chair, Dr. Wu, showed up at 2:30 and proceeded to answer question and concerns from the start. The other staff and faculty arrived at around 3 and also addressed other questions and concerns. A total of 22 students were in attendance, 5 were IT majors, and 1 Architecture major, making the IS departmental majors that showed up roughly 10% of the total IS department majors. The most popular topics covered were concerned about the number of class sections available, their corresponding class times (where most classes were the dreaded 6 to 9), and the course requirements for registering classes.

After thanking the faculty and students that showed up as well as apologizing to the Mr. Francois for having food in the lab, I emailed all students one last time this semester for a quick survey about the same popular topics covered and how to improve the feedback session for next semester. Of all the students, 24 (16%) responded to the survey and many of those that responded to the survey were not attendees of the feedback session. The survey supports the major concerns brought up by the feedback session and I plan on presenting the results to the chair and dean and explore the options of hiring more faculty and renegotiating shared IS class times with Rutgers.

For future feedback session I plan on holding more than one throughout the day as well as the online survey again for all those that cannot make it. I will also be holding it in a different room that allows food (sorry again Mr. Francois) and having better prizes as incentive, hopefully through the IS club’s financial form submission. I will do better advertising, such as printing out the flier and hanging up in IS class location as well as email the IS chair to email professors to advertise the week of. Finally, I would make sure the chair shows up later (like the rest of faculty) instead of showing up from the start to encourage more active professor complaints from students.

Hari Ravichandran, Chemical Engineering

Chemical Engineering Feedback Session

October 28, 2015

Our feedback session was after the AIChE meeting on October 28th, 2015 during common hour. The attendance was poor, with only five students. For marketing, I had emailed all of the students through AIChE and our undergraduate advisor one week before the session and again two days prior to the session. In addition, I hung up flyers on all floors of the Campus Center except the basement and four floors of the parking deck. Furthermore, I placed flyers in front of the Chemical Engineering Department Office. I believe that the lack of attendance was due to the session timing, lack of student interest, and the rainy weather that day. Professor Axe suggested that for next semester, I plan the meeting in conjunction with AIChE before the semester starts to boost attendance.

I opened the feedback session by presenting the results of the survey I did in mid-September, which gathered 42 responses. After that, I handed out my contact information (business cards) to the students who showed up. Finally, I allowed the students to give their feedback, which was the majority of the session (50 minutes). From the five students who did show up, I received quality suggestions. The feedback can be split into five key areas: Courses, Chemical Engineering Tutoring, Research/Industry, Computer Applications, and Professional Organizations.
The first course discussed was CS 101 – Computer Programming and Problem Solving. According to the students, this course does not do a good job of teaching MATLAB. One suggestion would be to replace the course with Math 340 – Applied Numerical Methods. The second course was Chem 124 – General Chemistry Laboratory. In this course, there are sixty to eighty students in a lab designed for 40 people. Groups of students are forced to collaborate with one another because there are simply not enough supplies for everyone. One suggestion would be to split this lab up into multiple sections at different times to reduce overcrowding. The third and last course discussed was ChE 312 – Chemical Process Safety. Process Safety is considered a valuable skill for Chemical Engineers in industry, yet we do not have a single mandatory course in it. One suggestion is to make Process Safety a required course.

For the issue of job placements in both research positions and in industry, our Chemical Engineering Program is already known for its industry prep. Lately, they have been pushing more for research. In the Otto H. York Building where most student research happens, an ID card is needed to get in along with a 1.5-hour safety training. More students should do this type of training, as companies are stressing the importance of understanding OSHA regulations. Therefore, one suggestion would be to make Process Safety training mandatory for all students.

For the issue of Professional Organizations, students suggest that the Department should become more involved with student organizations, including AIChE and Omega Chi Epsilon. The faculty and administration could stop by more during meetings, and not many students know the AIChE room exists. One suggestion would be to have freshmen take a tour of the AIChE room as part of one of their classes, along with having the AIChE and Omega Chi Epsilon Executive board members come in to speak to freshmen.

Through this feedback session, we were able to collect some quality feedback from the students that attended. This feedback was presented at the Chemical Engineering Department Meeting on November 4th along with the results of the survey that I previously did. Hopefully, this session along with the previous survey conducted (42 responses) will help student feedback be heard by the Department.

Chemical Engineering Department Meeting Presentation

November 4, 2015

When I showed the results of my student survey to our new Department Chair, Professor Lisa Axe, she asked me to present the results at the Department Meeting on November 4th. At the meeting, I presented student feedback from the survey and feedback session in front of most of the Professors in the Chemical Engineering Department. While listening to my presentation, the Professors asked questions and made comments about the survey results.

The first main issue that we discussed was class sizes in lecture halls and laboratories. The problem with enrollment for ChE 396, in which there were only 35 slots before (Spring 2015), has been solved by splitting up the class into two sections with 27 students each (Spring 2016). The second issue was job placement. The Professors mentioned that students may think that Professors have strong industry connections, which they can use to help students land jobs, but this is often not the case. In addition, the job market is currently very tough for chemical engineers. Furthermore, student interest in Pharmaceuticals was deemed unsurprising, as this is the last area in which we have many opportunities available in New Jersey.

After discussing student feedback, we went into some conclusions and ideas for improvement. One of them was to increase student awareness of internship, co-op, and job opportunities along with clubs and activities. Professor Axe asked our undergraduate advisor to hand out a sheet to students during advising to inform them of these opportunities. Another issue was the teaching of more software applications, such as MATLAB, Polymath, Aspen, COMSOL, Mathematica, and Excel. Professor Axe discussed a new course that will teach students to solve Chemical Engineering problems using such software packages.
Overall, the Professors were happy with my presentation and suggested that I make sure that the next senator in my role does the same kind of survey and meets with the department, since I am graduating in May. On my part, I am glad to help facilitate communication between the students and Department so we can work to push the department forward together.

Lahiru Pathirage, Civil Engineering
Civil Engineering Feedback Session Report
November 2, 2015

On Monday, 02 November 2015, the Civil and Environmental Engineering feedback session was held in Colton Hall 210. Approximately 12 students was came to give feedback on the department. Faulty that was in attendance was Dr. Taha Marhaba the department chair, and Dr. Walter Konan, a professor in the department. Pizza was served to both the students and the faculty.

There were a few issues that students were concerned about. First off some students were dissatisfied with the lack of honors courses that were offered by the civil department. There was also some concerns about being able to “honorize” courses as well. There was a lengthy discussion on the matter and in the end Dr. Marhaba would look into the current courses that are offered and if there would be a need for more honors courses. On the issue of “honorizing” courses, Dr. Marhaba stated that if there were any issues with “honorizing” a course, students could arrange a meeting with him in order to accomplish this task. Students were also concerned with a new prerequisite for CE260, Civil Engineering Methods. CE260 now has a prerequisite of CE200, Surveying, and some students were fairly concerned if it would affect their graduation time as they have not taken the course yet. Dr. Konan stated that this prerequisite shouldn’t affect very many people as the curriculum has CE200 placed a semester before CE260. Another issue that was brought up was the printer. The printer has been unusable often due to it being broken either due to mechanical error or insufficient toner which is an incontinence. Students were also concerned about the large plotter as well. Dr. Marhaba said that students can come to the administration in regards to printer problems and in terms of the large plotter, students suggested the idea of moving the plotter to the main office. This way the odds of the plotter breaking would be less which would save money for the department. Dr. Marhaba also stated the possibility of adding a new plotter. We also had a discussion on the ASCE club. Some students believed that joining the club was little intimidating as they believed that everyone in the club seems to know what they are doing and as a result they felt it would be pointless to join. Dr. Marhaba encouraged everyone to join the club as it is a very good way to be more involved and a really good experience. Students also gave the idea to have the ASCE bridge team have more showcases that would show civil students what the bridge team and ASCE is all about. This would encourage students to join the club and Dr. Marhaba liked the idea. This concluded the feedback session and the next one will be held in the spring semester.

Marino Duran, Computer Engineering
Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering Feedback Session Report
November 4, 2015

On Wednesday November 4th, 2015 myself and Electrical Engineering Representative Jaemin Lee held a feedback session with the computer and electrical engineering department in room ECEC 202. After sign up, 32 students were in attendance. The department chair was generous enough to provide pizza and beverages for the students. That alone was a good indicated of a better collaboration between us senators and the department chair. The 150 dollars were used to buy prizes that were raffled off to students who voiced their concerns with the us.

After collecting questions which took up the entire white board Ms. Mathes, undergrad adviser, and Dr. Tsybeskov, department chair, entered the room to try and answer some of our questions. Just like our last feedback session the chair requested that we write proposals and get everything in writing before being able to move forward. I have since then thought of a way to get proposals done for all issues we are currently having. Ultimately the chair seemed interested in helping us, as he saw how many people were in attendance and that we were all seriously concerned with the current status of our department, The session went over our scheduled time to 4:20PM.
Kaila Trawitzki, Engineering Technology

Engineering Technology Feedback Session Report
October 28, 2015

I held my feedback session during common hour on October 28th in the GITC 1100 lecture hall. Total attendance was 7 students, which is pretty normal considering the largest session they’ve ever had was 10 students. Overall, it was a success. Some of the topics discussed included Senior Project Courses and a minor issue with one of the online courses. Otherwise, no major complaints were noted. I have already made plans with the department chair to send out the emails and flyers earlier next time, and maybe flash drives or similar incentives to increase potential attendance.

Chirag Arya, History

History Feedback Session Report
November 4, 2015

Held a feedback session for History majors and it became a hybrid session for History and LTC students as well as any student that has taken History courses at NJIT. The date was decided by myself and Ms. Maureen O’Rourke. We had a large turnout with about 23 people and many more students fluctuating in and out of the session during the 1.5-hour time frame. Atharva Dhole, Amy Ng, and Cynthia Ahmed joined me in my session. The structure of the feedback session was very loose. There was faculty and staff present with students the entire time. The conversations began with introducing myself and my goal as a Senator which was to make NJIT and the history department better specifically making us a tight knit family. We began discussing overall complaints of the campus, which will be split up into separate sections below.

Safety:
There was a general consensus that safety should be improved with the addition of increased numbers of able and fit officers. Additionally, there were suggestions to link NJIT and Rutgers public safety emails. This is because the student body at NJIT is not alerted of crimes on the Rutgers campus if they do not already have a blackboard account and are set up with a Rutgers ID. Students and Faculty wanted there to be more human presence and not just cars present at critical locations on campus such as by the Tiernan Alley, the Subway next to Pizza Hut, and by the parking lots.

Parking:
The rates for parking have increased drastically especially for residents. This upset many students because they already have difficulty parking in the deck and now they have to pay more to be frustrated. Additionally, there were complaints of the 30 minute spots that were being installed in the basement of the deck.

Sexual Assault and Crime Awareness:
Several students and faculty members wanted Senate to be more involved with raising awareness on campus for sexual assault crimes and other related crimes. There has not been enough awareness and the lack of safety on campus can make this even more scary for the female members of our campus. it was suggested that Senate work with the female clubs on campus to create a large awareness event.

Literacy Rates:
The faculty brought up complaints about students in their upper level classes having difficulty reading and writing at the college level. Currently, myself and Dr. Nocks are working to institute mandatory writing center visits if a student is in clear need of this help to pass the course. Common Hours: Students and Faculty want another common hour because most clubs meet on Wednesdays and the ones that meet on Fridays have little to no turnout. There is a suggestion to implement the old Monday common hour that was present years ago. Additionally, students in the session complained that Senate meets too often. They believe that there would be higher student involvement in Senate if they met less frequent so that the students could be part of other clubs on campus (yes this is a complaint from students not on senate).
Issues with Administration and other NJIT departments:

There were complaints about students and faculty and the administration not being on the same page. This lead to a discussion about making school wide feedback sessions so that everyone that is part of NJIT can be vocal together and shed light on the issues plaguing everyone. This lead to me introducing my idea of a school wide feedback session in the atrium next semester in supplement of our individual feedback sessions. This would be set up in a career fair manner where each department has their senate rep and whoever else from their department attend. The students can then interact with their Rep, department members, and gain information about the personal feedback sessions that would happen later on in the semester. Additionally, there were complaints about the registrar and bursar and how they do not listen to the students. Both faculty and students were upset by this because it created more hassles for both parties.

Critiques for the Department of History:

Students wanted more research and internship opportunities. This lead me to propose that faculty and students work together from freshmen year with a mentor and a faculty member to set up students with internships or research in their respective majors. This idea was greatly supported from both ends and is currently being written up as a proposal to be given to Dr. Pemberton. Additionally, faculty expressed the concern about student participation and class structure to the students. Students and Faculty discussed the issues they faced in a class setting and the main points of concern were that classes were too big and there was not a significant amount of weight to the participation because it is often 5% of the grade.

Closing Remarks:

Overall the feedback session was a success. Most of the conversations were self started and required little mediation from myself. The faculty and students were delighted to discuss the issues that troubled them. The faculty and students are optimistic for the upcoming changes on campus and in the department.

Wuraola Ogunnowo

Digital Design and Industrial Design Feedback Session Report

October 30, 2015

William Busarello and I discussed dates that suited us both in order to have a feedback session that would allow for a large inflow of traffic from students. Our College of Architecture and Design Representative, Anthony Samaha, handled the feedback session flyers which consisted of the dates for both Digital/Industrial Design and the Architecture feedback sessions. All CoAD Representatives went around Weston Hall and placed the flyers up. We then had the flyers sent to Amada Belton, the CoAD Administrator so that she could email it to all students and faculty of CoAD. I (ID Representative) personally put in the order in for the food and drinks, while William handled reserving the lounge we used for the feedback session. William and I printed out multiple copies of the survey we created and had the students fill that out. We used a grading system for each questioned asked, and at the end of the survey, we had the students fill out any extra notes they may have had that was not covered in the survey. The feedback session lasted for approximately an hour, and went pretty smoothly.

Martyn Mendyuk, Industrial Engineering

Industrial Engineering BS/MS Feedback Session

October 28, 2015

Dr. Rao, the MIE Department Chair, expressed interest in running an Industrial Engineering focused BS/MS information session several weeks ago. I set up a date and time, and arranged a room. I also handled advertising for the event; specifically, I emailed all undergraduate students in the department, made announcements during IE classes, and coordinated advertising efforts with the NJIT IIE.

I began the feedback session by asking students general IE curriculum related questions, and then brought in Ms. Lucie Tchouasse, Dr. Bladiakas, and Dr. Rao. The info session lasted about an hour, split between gathering feedback from students, bringing in the faculty to answer questions, and collaborating on creating solutions to problems presented. In all, the feedback session went as expected and was a success.
Anthony Pereira, Information Technology

Information Technology Feedback Session

November 4, 2015

As required by every major representative, I hosted the IT Feedback Session. I managed to get the location and food without any real problems, although advertising was a bit late. The most noted figure to attend the IT Feedback Session was Dr. Michael H. Halper, the IT Program Director. I requested Serena Branson to email all of the CCS undergraduates about the event the day before and the day of the event. I also asked Dr. Halper to tell the IT Faculty to announce in their classes about the event. Overall, the Session went pretty well, as most people had a lot to talk about when it came to classes, specific professors, and the program as a whole.

Anthony DeRitis, Mechanical Engineering

Mechanical Engineering Feedback Session

November 4, 2015

As required by our Senate duties, I held the ME Feedback Session along with NCE Rep Kamal who was hosting the Engineering Science Feedback Session. The attendance was unexpected with 32 undergraduate students and two professors. A lot was discussed about improving NJIT and the ME Department. Starting with the improvements of NJIT, students had concerns about obvious topics like parking, furniture improvements, and the new event center which was discussed briefly. Another thing that was discussed was water fountains and the lack of water filter renewals. Also, the game room availability was mentioned, and was suggested by students to have it be open later, and possibly on weekends due to the lack of activities for residents after hours.

Many ideas and complaints were discussed about the ME program. A major concern was with a professor, in which, the ME administration will be looking into resolving. Another issue was that lab equipment was affecting students lab reports, and was being misused or was not working correctly to begin with. This issue is being looked into further. A professor mentioned that the ME curriculum should be more open to students to pick from, especially electives.

A few suggestions by students were to create common exams for courses that are the same, but are vastly different from each other based on the professor you would take. Also suggested by a student was a course which teaches the legal aspects and standards of industries of mechanical engineering. Also students found interest in the FE exam, and would like to be given an info session on it which I will be helping to get that into place.

Overall, there is initiative being taken by the department head to resolve issues, and some ideas are being put into play. One class that is now offered Saturday mornings will be the FE Exam Prep course. Along with this there are new professors being hired which should greatly improve the curriculum of the ME program.

Amy Ng, Science, Technology and Society

STS Feedback Session

November 4, 2015

The STS department and I arranged to hold a feedback session that invited not only STS Majors and Minors, but those who have taken STS classes in the past. A room was reserved and details regarding prizes and food were finalized approximately 2.5 weeks prior to the event. In addition to emailing all STS majors and minors a total of 4 times before the event, I reached out to every professor currently teaching an STS course to send out an email announcement to their students. I was warned by my advisor that attendance at STS feedback sessions are historically nonexistent, so not to any of our surprise, we had 0 students in
attendance. Thankfully, we received 17% participation from our students after administering a survey which asked pertinent questions about courses, the curriculum, and campus life. I am happy to report that we collected a very good amount of data and are currently working on addressing the concerns of the students.

Pritinder Singh, Web and Information Systems

University Senate Meeting Report

October 16, 2015

David F. Ullman ran the meeting and discussed the issues the university had last year. Some of these issues were wireless network access for guests and NJIT calendar. He also explained what the university is doing to improve on these issues for example they are allowing guests to have a temporary id for as long as they stay compared to having one created everyday. After he address the issues he moved onto the updates the university will be receiving. The biggest update that is happening is on the NJIT’s website itself. Basically they want to perform a full site audit and archive the old content. Lastly I was told to ask if the Student Senate had access to the University Calendar.

Mark Neubauer, Resident

Residence Life Meeting

November 4, 2015

On Wednesday, November 4th, I met with Lynn Riker and Sanjeannetta Worley, who are the Director and Associate Director (Facilities) of Residence Life, respectively.

I briefly introduced myself and the goals the resident representatives share for this school year, namely to improve the maintenance request system, to have regular meetings with both ResLife and RHA, to improve the laundry system, to have permanent advertising in Residence Halls and more.

First, Sandy discussed recent and upcoming improvements planned for the residence halls. Over the summer, Redwood hall renovated the 1st floor. Some painting still needs to be done. Laurel Hall will have its lobby and 1st floor updated by January 4th, 2016. In addition, she wants to re-do the countertops within Cypress and Laurel Halls. In addition, they are still working on updating all the overhead lighting within Redwood and Cypress. One part of the building that is obstructed by the Naomi Athletic Center has new lighting, but the rest of the building and Cypress does not. Lighting also must be upgraded in Laurel hallways. She could not give me an estimate of when it might be completed.

We then discussed the Maintenance Request System. There have been many student complaints about maintenance responding to issues too late or not at all. In addition, students are sometimes unsure if maintenance has even been in their room because they do not leave a note. I was told that there is a “follow-up form” that Physical Plant is supposed to leave on the room’s door. The problem is not that they do not have a system in place, but that they do not use it.

ResLife mentioned that a new system will be put in place in the near future and that I should email Rob Gjini (robert.gjini@njit.edu) from the Laurel ID Office for more info. I also brought up the Maintenance Blitz, which was a huge success, and the possibility of it occurring more than once a semester. I was told to talk to Physical Plant (boris.nepomnysashchyi@njit.edu, mark.massa@njit.edu, michael.thompson@njit.edu). Another issue to be brought up with Physical Plant is the Honors elevators which always break down.

I then brought up the laundry system that was initially brought up at the Resident Feedback Session. Lynn misspoke when she said the laundry contract with the current vendor would soon end. It is a 10 year contract that began in August 2008, and will not be completed until 2018, because they see no reason to break the current contract. Besides providing the machines, the vendor redid the laundry rooms in 2008 as well as cleans the vents 2 times a semester. To make the laundry “free” would require a laundry fee to be
included in room and board. In Lynn’s words, “free is not really free.” Perhaps Senate could plan for when the contract is over, and gather student feedback for a new and improved laundry system with an app, better machines, etc.

Lynn and Sandy both were interested in the SAFRB proposals, particularly the water bottle filling stations, which they have been interested in installing in the Residence Halls. Redwood already has one, and Cypress has no water fountains on the 1st floor, meaning it would be much more expensive ($8,500) to install one. I told them that it would be unlikely for this to be funded through SAFRB because it does not benefit all students (only residents). However, I asked for a letter of support and perhaps they could purchase some alongside us. Or if it was funded through SAFRB, they said they would pay the difference.

I asked them for any suggestions they might have for future SAFRB Proposals. These include:

- 2 benches (outdoor seating) on Bleeker St.
- Redo concrete and seating outside of Oak/Laurel
- Fix the retention basin outside of Cypress/Redwood
- More recreation in front of Laurel (Ex. permanent volleyball net)
- Expand hours of Warrant Street Fitness Center so that they are the same as the Athletic Center

Finally, I told them about Public Office Hours and if they had any suggestions for a survey. Sandy wanted to hear students’ opinions on smoking by buildings, and I think we already asked that question last year.

Due to time constraints, I could not bring up all the issues I had planned. I will try to contact Physical Plant on a couple of issues, and table rest for my next meeting with ResLife in December.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Finance Hearings:**

*MOTION (Jennifer Farah): To Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and IEE for $275 in order to fund their event, Ultimate Game Night. MOTION PASSES.*

*MOTION (Jennifer Farah): To approve Society of Women Engineers for $750 in order to fund their event, Sadie Hawkins Dance. MOTION PASSES.*

*MOTION (Jennifer Farah): To approve Highlander Chess Club for $100 in order to fund their event, NJIT Chess Tournament. MOTION PASSES.*

*MOTION (Rukayat Balogun): To approve HighlanderThon for $460 in order to fund their event, MiniThon. MOTION PASSES.*

**Judicial Review:**

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

• Martyn Mendyuck, Industrial Engineering, has announced his resignation from the Student Senate. We would like to thank Martyn for his contribution to the Student Senate.

• The Student Senate would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following Senators with November birthdays: Al-Rashid Jamalul, Anthony DeRitis, and Lea Burlew.

• Public Office Hours will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 in the Campus Center Lobby.

• The NJIT Men’s and Women’s Basketball Teams are playing back-to-back home games tomorrow night beginning at 5:30PM with the Women’s team and 7:30PM with the Men’s team in the Estelle and Zoom Fleisher Athletic Center.

• Casino Night will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2015 beginning at 8:30PM. All Senators are required to sign up for at least one shift.

• Noble November has begun! This year’s charity drive is a penny war amongst the 5 classes at NJIT. Be sure to spread the word to all of your constituents and encourage them to donate.

• The Student Senate Thanksgiving Party will be in the Student Senate Office immediately following this meeting.

• The Student Senate Holiday Party will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 4:00PM following the Student Senate Meeting. Each Senator is encouraged to invite one faculty member that has been crucial to their success during their term thus far. Formal invitations have been placed in each Senator’s mailbox.

• Next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2, 2015.

MOTION (Atharva Dhole, Pritinder Singh): To adjourn the meeting of Wednesday, November 18, 2015. MOTION PASSES.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.

As submitted by:

Darshan Patel (Recording Secretary)