



## MINUTES

### **Student Senate Meeting 06 December 2023, 2:30 PM CKB Agile Strategy Lab**

1. Attendance
2. Previous Minutes
3. Public Forum
  - a. Department of Information Services and Technology (IST)
    - i. Ed Wozencroft and Blake Haggerty
      1. Want to provide helpful technology for students
      2. Worked with senate during COVID
      3. Replace iclickers with poll everywhere to save student costs
      4. Improving data quality from degreeworks, banner
      5. Work with registrar and finaid to have access to self service and answer student questions better
      6. Merging technology, exploring Ai, industry partnerships
      7. Updating the registration system?
        - a. Will be partnering with provost, will do registration analysis, completely renovate system
      8. Student id transfer to phone wallet, is that possible?
        - a. It exists and is being tested, a lot of flaws and security concerns, but is being worked on, app download
      9. Research opportunities?
        - a. Will work with researchers on campus and connecting with faculty
      10. Digital school
        - a. Polytechnic institute, better digital communication and keep students better aware of ongoing events on campus using digital analysis
4. Old Business
5. New Business
  - a. Swearing in
    - i. Mechanical Engineering
      1. Victoria Almeyda
        - a. Sworn in!
  - b. Vacancy
    - i. Computing and Business
      1. Jhanvi Pai
        - a. Intro:
          - i. Girls who code and many extracurriculars give her experience
          - ii. Issues: Lack of job opportunities, diversity of relevant classes
        - b. Questions:
          - i. What issues do you expect?
            1. Don't know a lot of people in major, want to hold feedback form and hear them, meet more of them, work with CDS and senate for job aspects
          - ii. Computing in business program is paused so new students can't apply as that major - point of information
      - c. Closing:
        - i. Thank you for time and consideration, want to give the major a voice
      - d. Vote:
        - i. Approve: 23
        - ii. Deny: 3



1. Approved

c. New Student Organizations

i. Armenian Students Association

1. Opening:

- a. Strives to provide space for diverse armenian students, background history, where we come from
- b. Goal to stand up as cultural group and incorporate ideas and connect Armenians

2. Questions:

- a. Ideas to bring Armenian culture to campus?
  - i. Will teach Armenian dances, hands-on experiences
  - ii. Armenian food tasting
- b. Events?
  - i. Nov 27 - practice protest
  - ii. Armenian party, contribute Armenian food/music

3. Closing:

- a. Thank you for opportunity

4. Vote:

- a. Approve: 20
- b. Deny: 4
- c. Abstain: 2

ii. Professional Women in Construction, NJ Student Chapter

1. Opening:

- a. Diverse group need more representation

2. Questions:

- a. What kind of events?
  - i. First event upcoming semester, will bring whole eboard and from different industries, do a panel, why they've chosen the career, networking events to propose

3. Closing:

- a. Will have opportunity to scholarship and summer internship, more opportunities for networking, successful professional and role models

4. Vote:

- a. Approve: 22
- b. Deny: 3
- c. Abstain: 0

d. Revivals

i. NJIT Aero Design Team

1. Opening:

- a. Thank you for listening, flylanders, want to show the devotion and commitment, fly aircrafts, want to spread aeronautics education, create collaborative environment

2. Questions:

- a. How will this club not go inactive?
  - i. Have a lot of events, new eboard won't let it
- b. How will distinguish from other aero clubs?
  - i. Njit aviation club was focused on simulation of flights
  - ii. Our team is about whole process of fly, research, design aircraft, do simulation but only to create feasible aircraft to fly, as rules given by SAE, take created aircraft to competition, 6th year going to comp

3. Conclusion:



- a. Appreciation for time and consideration, prospect of contributing to NJIT community, thinkers & dreamers - not a club but a community, enrich community
- 4. Vote:
  - a. Approve: 18
  - b. Deny: 5
  - c. Abstain: 2
- e. Constitutional Amendment: WebMaster Voting Rights
  - i. Christina Ayoub
  - ii. Webmaster serve on Internal Affairs Committee
    - 1. Webmaster can support agendas and minutes being uploaded and created as well as the Iclikers not working often
  - iii. No vote:
    - 1. Webmaster does not have a constituency
  - iv. Questions:
    - 1. Is this an Ad hoc position? No
    - 2. Updated documents into Public Drive ? Yes
    - 3. Why are Eboard not allowed to vote? Votes are based on what will benefit their constituency therefore they can not make a vote based off no constituency
    - 4. Can Webmaster still vote on votes that affect Senate or students as a whole No
    - 5. Is the Webmaster required to come to GBM? Yes
  - v. Point of Info:
    - 1. Not a volunteer still a position
- f. Resignation
  - i. Macrina Makar
    - 1. Vice President of Administration
      - a. Grateful for experience
- g. Student Activities Fee Proposal
  - i. Janice Aklaydous
    - 1. Increase student fee from \$31 to \$73.50, due to inflation of tuition
    - 2. Have been running on money rolled over from COVID, money is being depleted
    - 3. Reason we need proposal to pass, we are now supporting senior class events, campus improvements, and student orgs
    - 4. Fee taken out of what will be paid from tuition, not additional fee
    - 5. Part-time students pay \$30 fee, full time students pay \$31
    - 6. Next academic year
    - 7. Point of information:
      - a. Tuition goes up by 1.2%, proposal is reallocation of funds, not additional payment
      - b.
    - 8. Vote:
      - a. Approve 22
      - b. Deny 4
      - c. Abstain: 4
        - i. approved!
      - d. Go back to discussion 3
- 6. Executive Reports
- 7. Senator Reports - tabled to secret santa meeting
  - a. Webmaster
    - i. Joshua DeMarco
  - b. Biochemistry Representative
    - i. Sriya Jidugu
  - c. Hillier College of Architecture and Design



- i. Alvaro Coronado, Daniel Gratsas, Brianna Alveraz, and Shahd Ali
  - d. Materials Engineering
    - i. Pia Piazza
- 8. Announcements
  - a. Secret Santa next Wednesday, December 13 !
    - i. Senate Office 2:30 PM
  - b. VPA Resignation
    - i. 😞
    - ii. Call another meeting for filling the VPA vacancy
    - iii. Advertisement will be publicized 12/06/23 @ 4:30 pm
    - iv. If you are interested in running you must resign from your position or resign by the end of the week
      - 1. Larissa formally resigned
    - v. Macrina opened up Academic Affairs Meeting

### **Computing and Business**

#### **Jhanvi Pai**

Hello! My name is Jhanvi Pai and I'm a third-year Computing and Business major minoring in Design of the User Experience. I'm an on-campus resident and an Albert Dorman Honors Scholar. One of my core values includes giving back to the community so I'm an active Jersey Cares volunteer at Branch Brook Park and lead service projects as Vice President for Engineers Without Borders - NJIT. I have a strong passion for accessibility in technology as well, so I participate in research related to accessibility for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing to digital media at the Sound Interaction and Computing Lab under the supervision of Dr. Mark Cartwright. I also believe in the mentorship of underclassmen on campus so I'm active as a TA for Honors First-Year Seminars and was previously a Peer Mentor for the Learning Communities. These activities have helped me gain a sense of humility and respect for people from diverse backgrounds. I'm passionate about my career and want to bring my professional experience to benefit the NJIT Student body as Computing and Business representative.

### **WebMaster Position Modifications:**



6. WebMaster

- a. Serve on Public Relations and Internal Affairs committees
- b. Manage and update all Senate technology, including physical technology (office computers, tablets, screens, etc.) to ensure it remains updated and functioning properly
- c. Periodically provide their Committee Chairs with an update on their goals
- d. Work with Secretary/Director of Public Relations to ensure General Body Meetings' and events' technology is done properly by communicating with MTSS
- e. Manage and ensure Senate drive, website, and social media is updated
- f. Shall not have voting rights (including opinionated discussion)

**Student Activities Fee Proposal:**

To Whom It May Concern,

I trust this message finds you well. I am proposing a necessary adjustment to the University Student Fee structure at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). This proposal aims to address the financial needs of the Student Senate, the governing body representing the student community at NJIT.

*The Student Senate has long been pivotal in fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus environment at NJIT. It has historically been funded through a student fee that contributes to a budget pool used to support various student-led initiatives, university-wide events, facility improvements, and vital student organizations such as the Yearbook, Newspaper, and Office of Student Life. This funding has enabled the Senate to effectively serve as the student body's voice, enhance student experiences, and contribute to the overall betterment of our institution.*

Due to changing financial circumstances, the Student Senate's funding was significantly reduced from \$55 per student to \$30 per student in the past academic year. While we managed to use the remaining funds from the previous year's COVID-19 rollover, those reserves have now been depleted. This severely challenges the Student Senate's ability to continue functioning at the level our students deserve and expect.

**Proposal:**

To ensure the continued success of the Student Senate in representing the interests of NJIT's student body while taking into account the rate of inflation over the past three years and the growth that NJIT has experienced, I am proposing a readjustment of the student fee from \$30 to \$73.50 per student starting in the upcoming academic year. This restoration will allow the Senate to effectively serve its purpose, supporting essential functions such as:

- *University-Wide Events:* Hosting events that foster community engagement, cultural diversity, and educational experiences for all students.
- *Facility Improvements:* Contributing to renovations and enhancements of school buildings, classrooms, and common spaces to benefit the entire student body.
- *Student Organizations:* Ensuring that vital student organizations, including the Yearbook, Newspaper, and Student Life office, receive the support they need to thrive.
- *Senior Class Events:* Facilitating memorable senior class events that celebrate the accomplishments of graduating students.
- *Campus Improvements:* Invest in projects that improve campus infrastructure, amenities, and overall student experience.



Below is a drafted budget breakdown for the 2024-2025 Academic Year;

Fund	Fall	Spring
Student Senate Operating	\$ 88,480.00	\$ 50,000.00
Class President Events	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 32,000.00
Student Senate Public Relations Programming	\$ 54,150.00	\$ 45,000.00
Signature Events	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Office of Student Life (Campus Center Board)	\$ 56,000.00	\$ -
Student Activities Council	\$ 78,500.00	\$ 78,500.00
The Vector	\$ 23,895.00	\$ 23,895.00
Nucleus Yearbook	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 9,500.00
WJTB Geek Radio	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 23,000.00
Society of Musical Arts	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Student Senate Clubs Allocated	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 180,000.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Total Sum Calculated	\$ 721,525.00	\$ 601,895.00

*The proposed fee adjustment from \$31 to \$73.50 per full-time student will yield a total increase in revenue for the Student Senate budget. This incremental revenue will be allocated responsibly to support the Senate's operations, ensuring its ability to fulfill its commitments to the student body. The \$73.50 Student Activities fee will ensure that the Senate can keep fulfilling its role on campus and will allow for increased engagement and overall participation of students in NJIT. The proposal calls for \$73.50 to be applied during each, the Fall and Spring semesters. Also, I propose increasing the student activities fee for part-time students from \$3 to \$73.50. Part-time students are also included in all the benefits of Student Activities as full-time students.*

The Student Senate is at the heart of NJIT's commitment to student engagement, leadership development, and the enhancement of the campus experience. By restoring the student fee to its previous level, we can ensure that the Senate continues to effectively advocate for students' needs and contribute to the overall excellence of our institution.



## NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

**Sriya Jidugu, Biochemistry Representative meeting with  
Dr. Balasubramanian**

**6 November 2023, 11:30 AM  
352 Tiernan**

1. Meet with Dr. Balasubramanian to discuss about common concerns across the Biochemistry department.
  - a. There two different pages on the Chemistry Department website that show the required classes for a Biochemistry major, they often contradict each other. The second page is being deleted.
  - b. Some colours that used to previously offered at Rutgers is not also being offered at NJIT, course codes need to be changed accordingly. Request to make changes has been placed.
  - c. Additional pages on the Chemistry website about Technical Biochemistry electives have wrong course codes and show classes that aren't offered anymore. This page is also being taken down, and senator sent out email and drive with official list and the degreeworks link.
2. Discussed to conduct an advising/welcome event to help freshman transition and integrate into the CHES department better.
  - a. Create an advising session to overall review the structure of the major and different requirements are reviewed.
  - b. Invite other upperclassmen and peer mentors of the chemistry department to create a community with the 1st years and transfers students.
  - c. Decided that Senator will host an event before registration next semester, and Dr. Balasubramanian and possibly Dr. Sadik will speak as well.
3. Making a Peer Mentor group for all of the Chemistry Department with the Newark Public library.
  - a. Interested Upperclassman and tutoring students will be recruited for buddy system.
  - b. Students will have an option to match with buddy for academic, professional, social and etc. purposes.

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## NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

**Alvaro Coronado, Brianna Alvarez, Daniel Gratsas, Shahd Ali**

**Meetings with Darius Sollohub, Mark Bess, Martina Decker, David Brothers, SIGGRAPH,**

**1) HCAD**

**AIAS and IDSA**

a) A form was sent out to all of HCAD to discuss concerns seen through our students. These relate to curriculum changes, studio culture. Mental health, post graduation opportunities, and mental health.

b) The major reps have also met with their individual student leaders from each major and set up meetings with the directors to talk about these concerns.

- c) Meeting with Dean Esperdy to discuss issues about
- Post-graduation opportunities= More research opportunities during the summer
  - Internships and co-ops= Possible enforcing a co-op requirement into HCAD and developing more workshops to skill building
  - Incoming Freshman class= Possibly going Hybrid/virtual for studio. Piloting a new system for collaborative studio which will try to accommodate to the need of studios. Fenster hall is going to possibly be turned into classroom spaces.
  - Studio Spaces= More security for our doors and cleaner studios
  - Campus life within HCAD= to create more student activities within our building and offer more events.

**2) Architecture**

a) Spoke to the directors of the Architecture program about a survey that was sent out about concerns that students have in the major.

- We're trying to navigate the issue with the growing first year class and the limited space in HCAD for desks.

- Navigating hygiene conditions in HCAD and studio culture and curriculum

b) Will be sending out another survey specifically for advising to see what students need and what their concerns are with the advising office. Will be speaking to administration about that at a later time.

c) Spoke about a potential collaboration between the civil engineering majors and architecture majors in the senior capstone project to administration as well as the civil engineering senator and we will be planning out a possible collaboration in classes.

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## NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

### 3) Digital Design

a) A survey has been created to understand the expressed interests of students within the major.

b) After gathering much of the info, here were the most common and serious issues reported within the survey

- Mental health and studio culture have been major issues that have been neglected and as a result students are struggling with their assignments, time management, and relationships. Students are afraid to ask for help from their peers and mentors.
- Another major issue is the quality of the professors who are being hired within the university grounds.
- The studio hours tend to be long and the style of studio courses have become outdated and needs to update to fit modern times.
- Curriculum tends to be split and skewed in very unspecific manners as the curriculum fails to balance 2D and 3D. The curriculum that is used is the entertainment and interactive tracks.
- Post-graduation job opportunity, research and internship opportunities, etc.

#### c) SIGGRAPH

- The meeting with SIGGRAPH leaders, Megan Krutz and three others about the curriculum, mental health, and technology.
- The separate meeting with Martina Decker, Richard Thompson, Alvaro Coronado and Megan Krutz talking about issues relating to mental health, studio culture, curriculum (i.e.: Color and Composition).

#### d) Next Steps

- The curriculum needs to change to ensure that our students can experience the quality of our program.
- Creating and bringing in internships and job opportunities for students who will soon graduate.
- More investment in technology and industry standard programs for our students.
- We will be proposing for the changing of the Property Loss and Damage policy within the NJIT catalog.

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## NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

### 4) Interior Design

a) Made a survey for students to express their opinions about studio areas and general interior design ideas.

b) Learned the following from the serve: Issues

- Students studying interior design find studio hours to be intellectually taxing and difficult.
- Many students believe that additional activities are needed to bring everyone together since they feel cut off from njit as a whole.
- Post graduation opportunities for students

c) Solutions

- Discuss studio hours and potential compromises with the director and coordinator. Perhaps shift the studio hours to three hours.
- Plan additional time-appropriate activities for all head students.

d) Met with Director and Coordinator

- Studio hours are currency being reduced
- Working on event still in progress TBD
- Career Fair: Looking into adding more firms come out and offer internships and opportunity for students.

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## NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

**Materials Engineering Representative**

**Meeting with CME Chair, Dr. Lisa Axe**

**Pia Piazzzi**

**10 October 2023, 11:30 AM**

**Tiernan**

- CME Student Feedback Session - 20 October 2023 (Kupf 118)
  - General un-awareness surrounding Materials Engineering program
    - Chem E & Bio E majors in attendance not aware of option to double major/ minor
    - Solution: NCE department newsletters/ emails including this info and who to contact regarding the option
      - Dr. Axe & Dr. Obuskovic working on this for CME department
  - CS 115: Introduction to Computer Science in C++
    - Students would rather take python or MATLAB rather than C++
    - Class is outside of department, difficult problem for CME to solve
- Promoting & growing materials engineering undergraduate degree
  - Currently 6 students
    - 2 freshman, 2 sophomore, 2 junior transfer students
  - Meeting with freshman - 5 September 2023
    - Toured life science building & explained possible research opportunities
  - 22 October 2023 - NJIT Open House
    - Spoke & presented on behalf of the CME department regarding the materials engineering program
    - Observed considerable promotion of the program coming from the administrative end
- Materials engineering student meeting - 27 October 2023 (5/6 attendance)
  - Increased transparency regarding curriculum changes
    - MTEN 202 no longer offered - MTEN 309 is now 4 credits making up for this
    - Undergraduate thesis option
    - Updated copies of 4 year curriculum were sent to every student following meeting
  - Materials lab in Tiernan estimated completion - Fall 2024
  - Materials Engineering Honors Society
- Upcoming - Spring 2024 (Discussed with Dr. Axe 28 November 2023)
  - Research & professional fair for CME department
  - Department yoga (Partnership with Aiche)
  - Spring open house events

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Upcoming:

