

SENATE

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MINUTES
Student Senate Meeting
07 December 2022, 2:30 PM
Atrium

1. Attendance
2. Public Forum
 - a.
3. Old Business
 - a. Senator Reports
 - i. Mechanical Engineering
 1. Ayaan Khan
 - ii. College of Architecture
 1. Gnaneshwari Palamuthi
 - iii. Architecture
 1. Alvaro Coronado
4. New Business
 - a. Organizations
 - i. Revival
 1. Actuarial
 - a. Approved ()
 - b. Not Approved ()
 - c. Abstain ()
 - ii. New
 1. North African
 - a. Approved ()
 - b. Not Approved ()
 - c. Abstain ()
 2. NJIT TEP & USITT
 - a. Approved ()
 - b. Not Approved ()
 - c. Abstain ()
 3. NJIT SAE Formula
 - a. Approved ()
 - b. Not Approved ()
 - c. Abstain ()
 4. Lebanese Student Association
 - a. Approved ()
 - b. Not Approved ()
 - c. Abstain ()
5. Executive Reports
 - a. Meeting with Interim Provost, Dr. Dhawan
 - i. Mariam Sharobim
6. Senator Reports
 - a. Diversity and Inclusion
 - i. Lara Rios
 - b. Biomedical Engineering
 - i. Samira
 - c. Business and Information Systems
 - i. Megha Saju

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- d. Mathematics
 - i. Pakhe Mewani
- e. Construction Engineering Technology
 - i. Matthew Patino
- f. First Years
 - i. Nicholas Marshall
 - ii. Marianne Doss
- 7. Announcements
 - a. Senator Headshots
 - i. Bring in your Quarter zips and ask an E-board member to take them for you
 - b. Last Day of Office Hours
 - c. Riddle
 - d. Senator of the Month
 - e. Next Meeting
 - i. Event: White Elephant
 - ii. Attire: Ugly Christmas Sweater
 - iii. Activity: Gingerbread Houses
 - 1. December 14, 2022
 - a. Senate Office



NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Gnaneshwari Palamuthi HCAD representative, meeting with HCAD Dean Esperdy

22 November 2022, 11:30 AM

Weston Hall

1. Feedback Form: I sent out an HCAD tailored feedback form to all HCAD students and received 70 responses from the student body. The results were discussed and shared with Dean Esperdy. Questions regarding studio hours, methods of teaching (virtual, hybrid, in person), academic curriculum, professional readiness, mental health and overall experience were asked. A majority of students favored in person studio but shorter hours or scheduled breaks. Many students expressed feeling burnt out and drained and felt that their studio professors directed them to Google and Youtube if they did not know how to do something. The overall competitiveness and pressure of studio was discussed, referencing how students who may even be experiencing serious health issues were threatened with their grade to keep working. This was explained by Dean Esperdy as Educational Trauma, studio professors who most likely went through the same thing during their time as a student, would come back and continue the cycle.

2. Course Evaluations: The importance of course evaluations were stressed by Dean Esperdy as a way for students to discuss specific experiences and give their honest feedback that gets reviewed and will affect things such as tenure, rehiring, etc. I explained that students may not feel the need to contribute as their semester with the professor is over and may have been wasted. We discussed the possibility of a mid year feedback form that allows students to air their concerns mid-way through the semester if a professor needs to change their way of teaching.

3. Time management Resources: We discussed how students expressed not having enough time for deadlines or constantly having to pull all nighters, even if they felt they were good at managing their time. Many students talked about not having a social life or having to sacrifice sports and hobbies for studio. I brought up the possibility of having a course that integrated into the first year curriculum about how to plan and execute a project in the given time and Dean Esperdy agreed and told me to coordinate with Tom Orgazolek.

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4. Lastly, we discussed the class hierarchy that has been informally imposed. Studio is highlighted as the main class as it is 5 credits and meets 11 hours a week. However, many students disregard their other classes that are important and supplementary to studio and overall understanding of their major. This results in students being ill-prepared for a professional environment and the licensing exam in architecture specifically. Instead of lecture or slide based classes, we discussed the possibility of hands on experiences especially in classes like Structures and Construction in which material is currently being taught through slides. We also discussed the possibility of working on a section of your studio project in those classes so that student's feel like they can apply what they are learning to their designs.



NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Alvaro Coronado, Architecture Representative
Update on current issues

Data was collected from a form that was sent out to all design students which include the Architecture students. Feedback from years 1-5 was gathered and these are the major issues which will be brought up to Darius Sollohub, Interim Director of the NJ School of Architecture

1. Studio time change

- Currently studio for all architecture students runs from 1:00 PM TO 5:20 PM on both Mondays and Thursdays. With the data gathered, a large majority of the students think that studio time should be shortened by an hour and last from 1:00 PM TO 4:20 PM
- The studio credits also currently runs for 4 credits a semester but total hours a week is 9 hours

2. Hybrid studio vs in person studio

- A majority of the current students currently in studio don't physically work in the studio. This is affected by studio life and cleanliness of the studios themselves.

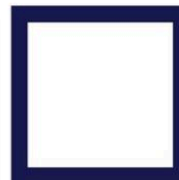
3. Use of Revit vs Rhino

- Currently the industry requires the use of Revit which is a BIM program while NJIT uses Rhino which is more free design based.

4. Arch Electives

- Currently all arch electives only have one section and most of them run 6:00 PM- 9:00 PM. Seniors have priorities but a lot of the transfer students who are 2nd years have difficulty getting into these classes.

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NJIT Student Senate Report

Ayaan Khan, Mechanical Engineering Representative
Meeting with Feneza Hoosain-Ally, Advisor and Dr. Joga Rao,
Mechanical Engineering Department Head

- 1) Student Feedback
 - a) Discord group and Email
- 2) Pamphlet
 - a) Spoke about the old pamphlet given to first year students and how it was outdated and should be replaced.
 - b) We now have a new pamphlet that is given out during orientation
- 3) Tutoring
 - a) Survey was sent out to all MechE Majors at the beginning of the semester and only 50 responded expressing interest in tutoring
 - b) Department thinks students should utilize office hours and tutoring is a waste of resources if there isn't enough interest.
- 4) FED 101
 - a) Discussed how we should transition from CAD software called Creo Parametrics to Solidworks since it is more used in the field.
- 5) FE Exam
 - a) Directed to NCE dean to work on providing more resources to students

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NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Lara Rios, D&I Officer

**Summary of Meetings with Chris Won,
Assoc. Dir. of Diversity and Inclusion**

Fall 2022

1. New Chief Diversity Officer Dr. David Jones

- a) Background: Served in roles including CDO at William Paterson University, Director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center at Rutgers - New Brunswick, and Director of Student Life at City University of New York. Additionally, Dr. Jones brings an understanding of town dynamics having worked closely with the municipality of West Orange.
- b) Officially started December 1st.
- c) Meeting scheduled with Dr. Jones, Chris Won, and myself for 12-14-22 at 9 am.

2. Programming

- a) Originally the plan was to do some programming from Senate with Student Life that would feature a student or faculty member and a guest. The first idea was to feature those in STEM fields that have identities which challenge social norms. After reaching out to some clubs we didn't get the response we had hoped for and will re-evaluate our approach.
- b) For any programming efforts, I want to partner with existing student organizations because we want to do things "with and for these groups, not on or about them". This also allows Senate to use its platform to get these organizations more exposure.
- c) Student Life has started to host their own programming including International Education Week and the Native American and Indigenous Heritage Month Panel.

3. D&I Committee

- a) There was some really great involvement in the beginning but, unfortunately, those students slowly stopped attending meetings.
- b) Attending more events hosted by cultural and advocacy organizations should help me connect with those that fall under the scope of this position. This will help me strengthen and rebuild the committee and inform more efforts moving forward.

4. Accessibility Assessment for Campus

- a) Having noticed a lack of signage and infrastructure on campus that could help people with disabilities make their way around, I was concerned on the last time there had been any sort of accessibility assessment for NJIT's campus.
- b) This assessment will allow us to be proactive and make changes that can make these students feel more comfortable navigating campus. We don't want to sit around and wait for them to let us know about the issues since we haven't seen many students reaching out about this.
- c) We emailed facilities, LaTosha Wilson, and O.A.R.S. but have not received a response.
- d) This topic will be a point of discussion in the meeting with Dr. Jones.

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Lara Rios, D&I Officer

**Summary of Meetings with Chris Won,
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Fall 2022

5. Highlighting Resources

- a) Created a post to let students know about the new D&I Resources page created by Chris Won.
- b) I wanted to highlight some of the departments we have in a different light, so we began doing interviews with the directors of these departments and expect to begin posting them next semester. These videos will feature D&I-Student Life, C-CAPS, CDS, and more.
- c) Another way to spread awareness of D&I is through a calendar of holidays, heritage months, etc. so Chris Won has shared one that we can give students access to.
- d) We want to find more ways to highlight the D&I Committee as a resource. An email was sent to all the cultural and advocacy organizations to inform them of the committee and our goals. Moving forward we will continue to reach out for partnerships, request feedback, and find ways to get them more familiar with us.

6. Affinity-Based Education and Celebration Proposal

- a) The proposal system is to replace the previous method of student organizations and departments requesting funding from the Student Affairs committee. The goal is to help cultural and advocacy organizations in their efforts to spread awareness and celebrate different occasions. Many of these initiatives have been underappreciated and lack support so we want students to know that this is something Senate cares about, encourages, and supports.
- b) Structure
 - i) Hearing will be held by a combined Finance and Student Affairs Committee meeting
 - ii) Half of the funding is awarded upon approval and the other half after hosting all the events with at least 80% of the anticipated attendance.
 - iii) Exclusive to Senate-Recognized student organizations but they can collaborate with any Highlander Hub organizations or NJIT departments.
 - iv) There are 3 Levels
 - 1) Level 1: For celebration and/or education of an identity-based month or week.
 - 2) Level 2: For celebration and/or education of an identity-based annual holiday.
 - 3) Level 2: For celebration and/or education of any affinity-based organization.
 - 4) Each level has funding request restraints, minimum amount of events required, minimum number of organizations/departments they must collaborate with, and a limit on the amount of times you can request each level.
- c) The Proposal system made its first appearance at the finance meeting yesterday. They gave a lot of good feedback that needs to be discussed and changes that need to be considered. Hopefully, this can be launched early next semester.

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NJIT Student Senate Report

Samira Santana
Biomedical Engineering Representative
Meeting with Dr. Pfister, Department Chair and
Dr. Erdi, Programs Director
Tuesday, November 08, 2022 at 1:00pm

- 1) The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the feedback collected during the Senate Feedback Fair as well as updating the website with some new items and hosting a track panel.
- 2) The first point of discussion was relaying the information I received during the feedback fair. This was only touched upon as there was very little feedback received and a low turnout of BME students. The points that were brought up concerned 302, 303 and 304 classes being offered once a week as a 6-9pm. They discussed that it was due to professor availability. I also brought up the Master's elective list which some students were having trouble with. They brought up the point that the courses were chosen by the track chairs and by the Master's advisor and that they weren't intending on changing it. Another point of feedback was the curriculum changes that have been happening almost every year. This has been causing some problems with students taking classes that they don't need to take. They attributed it to the accreditation changes made by the State of NJ to have all majors have a maximum of 120 credits. They are hoping to not make any major changes.
- 3) The second point of discussion was an update on enrollment numbers for BME students. The data that they showed me was found in their growth plan for the major. Data from 2021:
 - a) 379 full time UG students
 - b) Juniors and Seniors: 54 Biomaterials, 22 Pre Health, 36 Biomechanics, 29 Medical Device
- 4) The third point of discussion was a Biomechanics track pre-health curriculum. This is something that already exists but not a lot of students know about it. I emphasized the need to publish this to the students and they agreed to have it on the BME website along with the other curriculums.
- 5) The fourth point of discussion was updating the BME pamphlet. They agreed to include it on the BME website to benefit prospective and current students.
- 6) My last point of discussion was a BME Track Panel for second-year students. BME has three tracks: Biomaterials, Biomechanics and Medical Devices and Imaging, with Pre-Health being an option with either track. By the second semester of their second year, BME students have to choose a track. I suggested hosting a track panel for students where they can learn about each track and help them make a more educated decision. They were very interested with this idea and are looking to have it for next semester. A possible date for this is the week after spring break, before the advising period. We could use BME ambassadors, which are upper class BME students that can be a part of the panel.

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NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

**Megha Saju, BIS Rep meeting with
Dr. Michael Halper and Dr. Lin Lin, Associate Chairs/Soon to be Interim Chair
November 30th 2022, 4:30 PM
GITC 3501**

- 1) Dr. Halper (Interim Chair Starting Dec 18th)
 - a) Introductory meeting
 - b) Potential Information Systems Club
 - i) used to be one in previous years (went inactive)
 - ii) ACM currently has IS Special Interest Group
 - (1) many students are not necessarily aware of
 - c) Student Concern: some Professors do not have any grades in
 - i) Professors are supposed to give students an idea of how they are doing in the course before the add/drop day
 - ii) they said they will look into that and clarify with Professors
 - d) New Professor- Professor Spryszynski hired full time as university lecturer (part of solution for issue of only one section courses due to faculty shortage)
- 2) Dr. Lin (Associate Chair)
 - a) Introductory meeting
 - b) Student concern: Spoke about issue with IS 375 only having one section every semester and students not graduating or changing major to graduate- faculty issue that they are sorting out, currently trying to open another section for the spring semester
 - i) Currently process of hiring more lecturers and Professors
 - c) Student concern: BIS students core curriculum includes MRKT 330 to graduate. The prerequisites for this are "MGMT 190 or MGMT 390 or departmental approval". BIS also required to take MGMT 391 instead of 390. Students wondering if we need to get departmental approval to take MRKT 330 or we need to take MGMT 190 or MGMT 390 even though they are not listed as required.
 - i) Said he will contact School of Management
 - ii) Seems like communication issue between two schools (YWCC and MTSM)
 - iii) For now students should try to get department approval

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NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Megha Saju, BIS Representative
Creation of Discord

- 1) Discord
 - a) Got lots of feedback from students, very helpful
 - i) Classes they were not able to register for
 - ii) Complaint about misconduct from Professor
 - iii) General Issues with Professors
 - (1) Told chairs about major issues with Professors that need to be addresses
 - b) Made various channels
 - c) Rules for server
 - d) Prerequisite questions- MRKT 330
 - e) Discussed potential BIS social
 - f) Potential events they might want and enjoy
 - g) Let them know about ACM in case they were unaware of it and all its opportunities

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NJIT STUDENT SENATE REPORT

**Pakhe Mewani, Math Major Rep meeting with
Dr.Bukiet & Dr.Michalopoulou, Professor & Math Dept. Head
Week of November 28th, 2022, 9:00 AM
CULM 606 & CULM 206C**

1. Lack of Communication In Terms Of Resources & Opportunity

- a) Student Feedback: A lot of students were unaware of the resources available and opportunities for undergrad students. The Math Department sent out emails in the beginning of the semester, but the frequency has been lowered.
 - i) Emails come from the Math Office and are usually forwarded to students as they come
 - ii) Said they would work with professors and math-focused clubs for more outreach

2. Research & Career-Focused Seminars/Colloquiums

- a) A lot of students were concerned about careers in the Math Field
 - i) Introduced the idea of research and career-focused colloquiums
- b) Dr.Michalopoulou really liked the idea and suggested student-feedback fair specifically for math majors
 - i) They had it before - student organized, student run (involved all departments)
 - ii) Hasn't happened recently, but the faculty would love to set it up as long as they see interest
 - iii) I plan to send out a Google Form to inquire about student interest
- c) New faculty member in the Actuarial Science Department - new professor from industry
 - i) Professor Ryduchowski
 - ii) Recommended to contact to speak to any planned career-focused seminars for students
 - iii) Professor usually has events on Wednesday - originally for Grad Students but she said that there should be no problem to extend the invitation to undergraduates as well

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3. Research Opportunities Specifically For Math Undergraduates

- a) NJIT had a program before - EXTREEMS-QED, but that got discontinued by the NSF and NJIT's grant for it ended
- b) NJIT is in the process of trying to get a grant for REU in the summer, where students can come to NJIT and work on math-focused research
 - i) Other colleges have them so for now, students have the option to do research elsewhere
- c) NJIT has PI and CoPI, where students can apply to the program and get paired with a faculty member
- d) Upperclassmen have the opportunity to take classes such as MATH 491 where they do projects/research in class and have it published

4. Math Club & Pi Mu Epsilon

- a) Math Club: Pre-existing club run by Associate Chair - David Horntrop
 - i) They do hold events but students are not aware of them
 - ii) Dr. Bukiet said he will reach out to them to start sending emails about their events to Math Undergraduate Students
 - iii) Can also help with any events we set up, such as the research or career-based events
- b) Pi Mu Epsilon - Math Honors Society!
 - i) Inductions happen every Spring (March/April)
 - ii) Students can send their applications to join

Overall, a lot can be done, but the faculty just needs to see student interest. Furthermore, a lot is in the works currently, such as pilot phases for the research and career focused events and bettering communication between faculty and students

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NJIT Student Senate Report

Matthew Patino, CET Representative
Meeting with John Wiggins, CET Advisor
29 November 2022, 9:30
GITC 2108

- 1) I met with the CET Advisor John Wiggins, to introduce myself as the new CET Representative and propose future goals.
- 2) We first discussed the possibility of off-campus construction site visits. Professor Wiggins could have been more receptive to this idea as they have tried similar events in the past with low attendance numbers. Suggested charging students upon signing up and returning the money when they show up to ensure more students are committed. Mentioned being in contact with the Association of Construction Contractors of New Jersey (ACCNJ), and they have reached out to him trying to set up these trips for NJIT students. We are continuing to bounce ideas between each other to hopefully find a way to make this happen
- 3) We talked about a student feedback form, which he also did not like the idea of. He suggested that we host a Student Feedback Fair with commuter food to ensure more students would attend and provide feedback.
- 4) I emailed Professor Frank Golon and he explained some of the difficulties with planning events like this, however he plans on hosting two similar events next semester and the following years that CET students could also attend.

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NJIT Student Senate Report

First-Year Representatives meeting with

First-Year Advisors

30 November 2022, 1:00 PM

Advisor's Offices

First-Year Feedback Form

- Used results to schedule meetings with advisors and address specific issues
1. Nicholas Marshall Meeting with HCAD First-Year Advisor, Dr. Grazia Gangitano
 - Discussed the issue of advisor availability during registration time and the possibility of moving the open date to a Friday common hour, rather than 9PM on a given night
 - i. This would solve the issue, as advisors are available during this time
 - We also discussed classes that fill up too quickly, and there is no plan to increase section sizes within the next year
 - The students Rights & Responsibilities seminar may be moved to the spring semester for first year students as well
 2. Jonathan Ghaly Meeting with CSLA First-Year Advisor, Nicole Giacino
 - Giacino explained her registration campaign process by the end of September and encouraging first-years to schedule meetings
 - Coordinates with department heads on how to best advise specific majors
 - She also works with Civil Engineering students, who she has fill out a form regarding specific classes they would like to register for
 - A lot of issues regarding first-year seminar, making the classes more consistent and providing proper training for the instructors (there is currently none)
 - They are currently advocating to make first-year seminar accredited (impacting GPA)
 - Reassured that for lab classes, more sections will be opened as the next semester approaches.
 - **She advised meeting with Ryan Baldwin, associate director of learning communities to address unresolved issues.**
 3. Marianne Doss and Natalia Peña Meeting with Honors First-Year Advisor, Ms. Caitlin Kain
 - Possibility of giving dean's scholars early registration as honors students are given that privilege and dean's scholars are required to take honors classes in their major – will look into it with administrations
 - Providing honors first-years with more information about enhancing honors courses and was decided it would be incorporated into first-year seminar
 - Ms. Kain advises all honors students to meet with both major advisors and honors advisors to ensure both requirements are met
 - Need more communication between first-year advisors and honors advisors – they would be willing to spend more time going over an honors education in the summer and during liaison meetings
 - Ms. Kain also emphasized that honors students struggling with specific professors should provide feedback to her and she will reach out to the dean and associate deans of the honors college
 - Concerns about having more time with upperclassmen in first-year seminar
 - Improving the difficult process of getting a permit for non-honors students to take honors courses and how to improve the process

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NJIT Student Senate Report

4. Marianne Doss and Jonathan Ghaly Meeting with Biology First-Year Advisor, Ms. Natalia Pizarro-Valencia
- Agrees that there should be more communication between advisors, open to meeting with Ms. Kain
 - Would discuss with Ms. Karen Roach (biology advisor) regarding Rutgers cross-registration process for BIOL 205 and 201, Calc 2 requirement, and educating first-years more
 - Supported idea of getting credit for first-year seminar and sending out emails to all first-years about important information
 - Liked suggestion of moving registration to common hour
 - Recommended speaking to Ryan Baldwin, Associate Director of Learning Communities & First Year Initiatives about first-year seminar