

SENATE

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

MINUTES

Student Senate Meeting
13 September 2023, 2:30 PM
Campus Center Ballroom B

1. Attendance
2. Public Forum
 - a. Mr. Michael Davis
 - i. Director of student life, at NJIT for 2 years
 - ii. Part of senate team - wants to help with decisions, not be final decision-maker
 - iii. Brainstorm and connect with other faculty and administration
 - iv. Support diverse and dynamic community
 - v. Senate must have objective and unbiased decisions
3. Old Business
 - a. Organizations
 - i. Students for Life - Intro
 - a. Main purpose is to advocate for protection of life - starts at conception, end at natural life
 - b. Against topics such as abortion, euthanasia - takes away from protection of life
 - c. Plans to have volunteer and educational content
 - d. Will promote and organize community outreach and engagement
 - e. Will create respectful environment for everyone to feel comfortable to participate
 - ii. Answers to Questions
 1. Question 1: Can you expand on the volunteering your club would do and what events would be held?
 2. Diaper or formula drives for volunteering events
 3. Helpful for pregnant or parenting students
 4. General body meetings for members or outsiders interested, movie nights
 - iii. Closing
 1. Want to best serve NJIT community
 2. Topic affects students and want to initiate more discussion and place priority on the respectful environment regardless of individual perspectives
 - iv. Vote
 1. Approve 1
 2. Not Approve 15
 3. No confidence 2
 4. Abstain 0
 - a. NOT APPROVED
4. New Business
 - a. Resignation
 - i. Moksha Annigeri
 1. Data Science, resignation due to job opportunity
 - b. Vacancies
 - i. Biochemistry
 1. Sriya Jidugu
 - a. Sophomore biochem major, wanted to run because issue in transitioning first-years, no website or consolidated info, or little info about future scope

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- b. Events?
 - i. Talked to upperclassmen, if they would be willing to attend advertised events for biochem majors to see people in similar classes and would've appreciated such events
 - c. Immediate objective is to fix first-year integration, updating course names, use polls/forms to get other feedback about other issues
 - d. Vote:
 - i. Sriya 18
 - ii. No confidence 1
 - iii. Abstain 0
 - 1. Sriya is the new rep!
- ii. Chemical Engineering
- 1. Melisa Bilgili
 - a. Work with AICHE and chem honor society to make AICHE lounge more inclusive, tutor for chemistry engineering class to act as mentor, feedback forms to get concerns, have study sessions
 - b. Pressing issues?
 - i. Some resources/events, tutoring, office hours, but not a lot of emphasis or widespread enough, need more study sessions, saw one before that and it worked, need to show more caring
 - c. How to juggle everything w minor
 - i. Sleep schedule over place, but gets everything done, and cares about major, wants to be professor in future, will put in time
 - d. Ambitious and will care, best 4 years they can
 - e. Vote:
 - i. Melissa 17
 - ii. No confidence 2
 - iii. Abstain 1
 - 1. Melissa is the new rep!
- iii. Industrial Engineering
- 1. Bridgitte Limaymanta
 - a. Started as first-year, left during covid to get associate, became transfer student, first-gen minority female, in senior with internship experience, connections with departments, academic and professional goal, growth in NJIT as drive advocacy for student in SHPE, reslife, etc., wants to continue
 - b. How would you use senate resources to help the major?
 - i. Can use old discord to reach out
 - ii. Talk to professor and start new IE club, go through student orgs for that
 - c. With knowledge of department and njit, will help better understand curriculum, help navigate with professors, communicate with nce rep and administration
 - d. Vote:
 - i. Approve 17
 - ii. No confidence 1
 - iii. Abstain 1
 - 1. Bridgitte is the new rep!
- iv. NEW POSITIONS - precedent set this year
- 1. Residence Life

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- a. Brian Dong
 - i. Intro: NJIT is home to 2500 undergrad, living here on campus for year has showed it can be dull, wants to help dormers and improve life and promote life on campus, wants to bring back battle of halls and make it better, work with VPSA and student affairs to pull laundry event
 - ii. Over weekend dullness- collaboration ideas? : RHA runs battle of the halls, bring event where all halls compete to win merch, connect people, create something fun and will last
 - iii. laundry plan - personal experience - broke, financial aid and scholarship could have with laundry included, laundry machines wouldn't even work, helps not break budget
 - iv. Hard to get large groups? - through battle of halls - can gain prizes and bragging rights, use RHA funding, use email and communication
 - v. How to establish what you want this position to look like? - by adding laundry into scholarship, creates generations of people more at ease, if battle of hall implemented correctly brings more community and memorable moments for residents
 - vi. Conclude: want to reinstate battle of hall and make better event, bridge gap between RHA and residents, would love to implement free laundry for low income residents
- b. Saif Mairaj
 - i. Intro: deep sense of purpose and commitment to help enhance student experience at NJIT, time spent as maple hall ra has given appreciation for unique resident issues, being peer mentor, become well-known to students and residents, needs inclusive residential community, vision is to go off three pillars: connectivity, well-being, advocacy
 - ii. Three pillars: connectivity- feeling of belonging and promoting friendliness, well-being : mental and physical health are very important, advocacy: residents often have unresolved issues and wants to be their voice
 - iii. Mental health: has hosted events about mental health awareness and physical health, give away free stuff to encourage attendance and encouraged to any hall, work with RHA
 - iv. Hard to get large groups? - offer incentives and give away free things, work alongside student affairs to support these events through word and have more people connected with maximum potential to come to events
 - v. How to establish what you want this position to look like? - by being a liaison, advocate for residents to student senate, attend resident-centered events
 - vi. Conclude: be partner in student affairs, host social events and study sessions including maple hall game room, candidacy not about me but about resident hall
- c. Vote
 - i. Brian 8
 - ii. Saif 5

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- iii. No confidence 2
- iv. Abstain 1
 - 1. Not supermajority - reopen discussion
- d. Second vote
 - i. Brian 13
 - ii. Saif 6
 - iii. No confidence 0
 - iv. Abstain 1
 - v. Move to table b/c did not get supermajority
- 2. Webmaster
 - a. Joshua DeMarco
 - i. Second year IT student, used to be in hs government as secretary, helped create convocation video and worked with senate, rework senate website - bland and spice it up and help enjoy viewing it, use highlander hub, make videos
 - ii. Specific website improvements: make it more modern-looking, add recent looking pictures, keep it updated, blueprint for future webmaster, vocational high school with certification in IT, certified in html, c++, also studying web development rn, would have to pay to help with https problem - knowledgeable
 - iii. Highlander hub point - wants to make video tutorials and how to interact with it
 - iv. Big task so how would you manage on top of other obligations? - not afraid to get super involved, current skill set to have - no but will learn with web development classes, revamp something to make lives better
 - v. Close: look forward to being webmaster
 - vi. Vote:
 - 1. Joshua 19
 - 2. No confidence 0
 - 3. Abstain 1
- 5. Executive Reports
 - a. New Grant Hearing Process -VPF
 - b. New Weekly Vector Article - DPR
 - i. TABLED
- 6. Senator Reports
 - a. Senior Class President- Oktoberfest
 - i. TABLED
- 7. Announcements
 - a. Retreat
 - i. September 22-24 , next weekend!! - reach out if not coming or coming late
 - b. Next Meeting
 - i. September 20th, 2023
 - 1. Ballroom B
 - c. First After Hours
 - i. After the meeting! 4pm-5:30pm in senate office
 - 1. Karaoke night with chips and dip
 - d. Committee on Information Technology and Library - if any senators interested



Biochemistry:

Sriya Jidugu

My name is Sriya Jidugu & I am a 1st-year Biochemistry major. I am running to be the Biochemistry Major Representative for our college. We are a relatively small group of people, & we don't actually have an official major-specific 1st-year advisor which made understanding our curriculum's objectives & opportunities really hard at the start. To get over this info. barrier, I started reaching out & have been able to come in contact with a lot of our faculty members & understand how to address & proceed with specific issues in our department. To add, given my communication & networking skills, experience from the student council & peer mentoring in school, & also my will to both learn & improve on the job, I think I would be a very approachable & resourceful representative. More importantly, with my time at NJIT, I have 3 main goals as a representative: to make our major more known to incoming people, get year-specific advisors, & be an effective liaison between our department and students.

Chemical Engineering:

Melisa Bilgili

I am Melisa Bilgili, a 3rd year honors chemical engineering major minoring in applied mathematics. I am the best candidate for this position because I value improving students' education experience and I am passionate about my major, as I have a 3.97 GPA. Additionally, I won 2nd place out of 155 people for NJIT's Summer URI Program. I am a math tutor at the CKB Math Tutoring Center where I instill my love for education onto students and learn about their experiences at NJIT. As ChemE Rep, I want to utilize my connections of being a part of AIChE and OXE ChemE Honor Society where I tutor ChemE students. I will ask them questions about the new curriculum, classes, and what can be improved. I plan to host networking events and study sessions that create a sense of community. As the bridge between ChemE students and the department, I will voice the concerns and questions of the students to the faculty. I will stay connected with the students by sending weekly emails and feedback forms.

Industrial Engineering:

Bridgitte Limaymanta

My name is Bridgitte Limaymanta and I'm a 5th Year Industrial Engineering Major. I've been a general member of many clubs and on the E-Board of SHPE, Laurel Hall Council, and Oak Hall Council as well as two clubs at Middlesex College, I have a lot of experience in leadership roles with a true passion for assisting those experiencing situations I have in the past. I showcased this in my various E-Board positions in SHPE where many students join looking for a professional/academic mentor because they're first-gen or don't have family/friends in STEM. My love for advocacy makes me perfect for the IE major rep position because I'm now a 5th year student with experiences/connections within NJIT to help new or continuing students with their questions/concerns. With my knowledge of the IE department, I will guide students through the curriculum, connect students with specific goals to relevant professors, and advocate our community's concerns to administration and the NCE college rep.



Residence Life Representative Position Description:

- a. Serve on Student Affairs committee
- b. Act as a liaison between resident population and Student Senate
- c. Periodically provide their Committee Chair with an update on their goals
- d. Hold and attend resident-centered events
- e. Meet biweekly with Residence Hall Association (RHA) president
- f. Submit at least two senator reports to the Vice President of Administration per semester. At least one of those must be presented in a Senate General Body Meeting per semester.

Residence Life:

Brian Dong

Hi, my name is Brian Dong. I am currently a Junior Computer Engineering Major. Having been a part of Senate as a First-Year Representative I feel my experience would help me in this position. As Reslife Representative I would work with the heads of each residence hall along with RHA to make life on campus more enjoyable for those who live on campus. An idea I had would be a week called War of the Halls where the residence halls compete in events on campus to gain points for their Hall. At the end of the week, the Hall with the most points would win shirts and have bragging rights. Though NJIT is primarily a commuter school there are approximately 2,500 undergraduate students that reside on campus. This is why it is important that we don't forget about those of us who live on our campus.

Saif Mairaj

I'm Saif Mairaj, a third-year student majoring in Financial Technology, and I'm excited to run for the Residence Life Representative position in Senate. As a Resident Assistant and Peer Mentor, I've had the privilege of fostering a supportive and inclusive community within our residence halls as well as on campus. My accomplishments include organizing successful community-building events, addressing resident concerns effectively, and enhancing safety protocols. If elected, I'll continue my dedication to enhancing the on-campus living experience. My goals include implementing a more transparent feedback system, advocating for improved amenities, and ensuring that the voices of residents are heard and acted upon. I believe with the right representative we can make our campus dormitories an even better place to live. Vote Saif Mairaj for a thriving residence life community!



Webmaster Position Description:

- a. Serve on Public Relations committee
- b. Manage and update all Senate technology, including physical technology (office computers, tablets, screens, etc.) to ensure remains updated and functioning properly
- c. Periodically provide their Committee Chair 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 website and social media is updated

Webmaster:

Joshua DeMarco

Name: Joshua DeMarco Year: Second Year Major: Information Technology Activities: Volunteered to help Senate, Weightlifting Club Eboard Accomplishments: Filmed, Produced, and Edited the Convocation video for Fall 2023, Contributed equipment to the warren fitness center to make it a better facility Goals: Revamp the website, add online tutorials, and be an extra set of hands for any events that may need help.