



MINUTES
Student Senate Meeting
February 09, 2022, 2:30 PM
CC Ballroom B

1. Attendance
2. Minutes to Approve
 - January 26th, 2022
3. Public Forum
 - Eugene Dees
 - NJIT 2025 Steering Committee Launch
 - Vision
 - To be a preeminent public polytechnic research university with local and global impact.
 - Guiding Principles of NJIT 2025
 - Diversity—we will create a welcoming and inclusive campus environment.
 - Sustainability—as a STEM+ university, we will respond to the call for climate action and create a sustainable and enduring legacy.
 - Recognition—through this strategic plan, we will enhance NJIT’s recognition as a leading STEM+ research university.
 - Transformation—the principles of diversity, sustainability, and recognition require an institutional transformation.
 - Priority: Students
 - Enhance the curriculum and promote student learning
 - Promote and facilitate experiential learning
 - Support the student experience and engagement
 - Enroll a diverse population of students
 - Increase yield of admitted students
 - Become nationally and internationally recognized for student achievements
 - Priority: Faculty
 - Develop a more diverse faculty
 - Improve teaching and research
 - Strengthen training and mentoring programs for faculty
 - Become nationally and internationally recognized for faculty excellence
 - Priority: Research
 - Promote collaborative research
 - Promote partnerships
 - Foster innovation and entrepreneurship
 - Become nationally and internationally recognized for high-impact research
 - Priority: Prominence
 - Increase university visibility
 - Engage with the City of Newark
 - Promote alumni connections
 - Achieve a reputation for excellence
 - Tracking Resource Allocation
 - Two sources of resources for plan implementation:
 - New resources:
 1. These establish new university initiatives in addition to existing initiatives
 - Reallocated resources:
 1. This produces change by reducing or replacing old ways with new ways

4. Old Business
 -
5. Executive Reports
 -
6. Senator Reports
 -
7. New Business
 - Filling Vacancies
 - Biology Representative
 1. Hassan Elsaid
 - a. NOT HERE
 2. Mrunmayi Joshi
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 3. Gurleen Kaur
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 4. Andrew Latef
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 5. Suhas Parise
 - a. NOT HERE
 6. Adhithya Rajasekar
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 - i. Round 1:
 1. Mrunmayi:3
 2. Gurleen:1
 3. Andrew:8
 4. Adhithya:11
 5. Abstain:0
 6. No confidence:1
 - ii. Round 2:
 1. Mrunmayi:4
 2. Andrew:6
 3. Adhithya:10
 4. Abstain:0
 5. No confidence:1
 - iii. Round 3:
 1. Andrew:8
 2. **Adhithya:14**
 3. Abstain:0
 4. No confidence:0
 - Information Technology Representative
 1. Janae Anderson
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 - i. **Janae:22**
 - ii. Abstain: 2
 - iii. No confidence:0
 - Mathematical Sciences Representative
 1. Nora Bouyad
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 2. Pakhe Mewani
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 - i. Nora: 4

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- ii. **Pakhe:19**
 - iii. Abstain:1
 - iv. No confidence: 0
 - Business and Information Systems Representative
 - 1. Megha Saju
 - a. *Refer to Election Platform
 - i. **Megha:20**
 - ii. Abstain:0
 - iii. No confidence: 3
 - Constitutional Changes -**TABLED**
 - Article III Section 3 - Victoria G.
 - 1. Duties
 - a. Director of Public Relations
 - b. Secretary
 - Article VI - Committees - Victoria G.
 - 1. Public Relations Committee
 - 2. Internal Affairs Committee
 - Article V Section 3 - David Herz
 - 1. Vacancies
 - Article V Section 4 - David Herz
 - 1. Restriction on Dual Membership
- 8. Announcements
 - Senior Formal - Cameron
 - Fire Pit Event this Friday at 11:30-1...Signup for a shift
 - FeedBack Fair- Wednesday, February 16, 2022 (2:30 pm - 4:00 pm)
 - 1. Campus Center Ballroom B

Election Platforms

Biology Representative

- **Hassan Elsaid**
 - Hello, my name is Hassan Elsaid, and I am a senior majoring in Biology concentration neurobiology. I have founded my Debate club, am Vice President of the UMR chapter on campus, and hope to have this position as the biology representative to address the concerns and issues facing biology students at NJIT. Being elected into this position, I will make sure I do everything in my power to hear the problems of the biology student community and coordinate with other offices and officials throughout the university.
- **Kermina Eskandar**
 - Hi! My name is Kermina Eskandar, and I am a junior with a major in biology. Becoming the biology representative would allow me to seek the needs of other biology majors like myself, communicating their concerns and speaking on behalf of their suggestions. My goal as the biology representative is to represent the views of my fellow peers and ultimately reach a solution to our collective concerns. As we know, a very large percentage of majors in NJIT is in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences. This means that there are a great number of students that face issues regarding their major on a daily basis, in which they do not know where to go for help, or do not know about the resources that they have. It is important for every student to take advantage of their resources in times of distress. This is why I aim to reach each student and provide them with a source of comfort in speaking out for their concerns. I intend on providing frequent surveys for biology students to rate their class experiences, talk about how their week went, and state any concerns they may have that I will communicate to the committee as well as the department. Becoming the biology representative would give me the responsibility required to take action and help out every student relying on me.

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○ **Mrunmayi Joshi**

- I'm Mrunmayi Joshi and I'm a first-year biology major. I'm running for the position of Biology Representative because even though I've only been on campus for a semester, I can see that Biology is an extremely dynamic major with students who are some of the most ambitious and innovative on campus. Most students have post-undergrad goals like med school or grad school, so we have many different aspects like grades, tests, research, and extracurriculars to focus on. I'd love to streamline this process for students by creating a monthly Biology-specific newsletter with the latest updates in course offerings, faculty looking for researchers, and outside opportunities. I've taught for the last three years at Eye Level and at GED prep schools, so I'd work to bridge gaps between the department and students. I'm also involved as a writer for the Vector and Nucleus Yearbook, so I'm excited to create resources that will make it much easier to be a Biology student. Thank you!

○ **Gurleen Kaur**

- Good afternoon, My name is Gurleen Kaur and I am a junior, majoring in Biology I am running for the position of Biology Representative. As the next Biology Representative, I will assist Victoria Youssef, the College Representative of Science and Liberal Arts, with the biology tutoring center and be the representative for all the biology majors in NJIT. To sum up my accomplishments and what I have achieved, I have been working as a Student at-Large on the Internal Affairs committee to run the NJIT student senate website, updating vacant spots and headshots, as well as making sure that all the photographs taken during the various events are updated on the website as they are taken. Throughout the year, I volunteer and assist with senate events, making sure that everything runs smoothly and efficiently and I provide extra care when needed. In conclusion, I would make sure I fulfill my duties as the next Biology Representative and make improvements in student life.

○ **Andrew Latef**

- My name is Andrew Latef, I am a Freshman Biology major. I am grateful to have this opportunity to run for representative of the Biology department. I aim to form a collaborative bond between myself and other Biology majors to establish an efficacious and productive semester. As a Freshman, I have not had much college experience yet; however, over winter break, my mission trip to Kenya permitted me to believe that I can effectively and positively impact the situations of others when given the opportunity. My trip forced me to come out of my comfort zone, reach out to people, build relationships, tested my faith and work ethics, but most of all, it allowed me to understand the world as a whole, past what I know at home. I can implement these virtues at NJIT to engage students with their professors and make studying Biology a more joyous experience for everyone. My goals and ambitions go beyond the classroom to organizing events, leading meetings, and overall improving student life.

○ **Suhas Parise**

- My name is Suhas Parise and I am a first-year BS in Biology major. In high school, I was vice president of the Biology Club. I facilitated and scheduled club meetings, contacted guest speakers, publicized club events, and garnered over 25 new members in the 2nd year of the club's starting. I have experience with gauging student body needs and meeting those needs through Biology Club. I intend to use these organization and facilitation skills to fulfill my responsibility as the Biology Representative. Specifically, though, I want to reduce the confusion on course offerings in advanced biology courses among biology students by speaking to the biology department advisor and working to provide clarity on this issue. Further, another goal I have is to poll the students in biology to see which courses they would like to take in the future that isn't already offered and meet with advisors and faculty to see if they can create a new course to explore these concepts.

○ **Adhithya Rajasekar**

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- My name is Adhithya Rajasekar. I am a sophomore double majoring in Biology (B.S.) and Mathematics. I am applying for the position of Biology Major Representative. I have always been passionate about biology. Even in high school, I was often the liaison between my peers and the teachers, as well as the President of Health Occupational Students of America, which helped increase my interest in biology. Currently, I am the coordinator for the new Biology Tutoring Center opening up this semester! I am working closely with the undergraduate director of Biology, Dr. Daphne Soares, to set up the center, as well as other department-related endeavors such as the new website, discord, and more. My goal is to help foster a sense of community within the biology majors and the department at NJIT, making it easier for students to converse with the professors, and peers, get help with their courses, and more! This is the platform that I am running on, and hope to continue should I be elected!

Information Technology Representative

- **Janae Anderson**

- My name is Janae Anderson, I graduate in 2023, and my major is Information Technology. I am the co-founder and currently the president of First Fellows. First Fellows is an organization focused on guiding and providing resources to first-generation college students. In my professional life, I have held an internship at a VR company based in New York City and I have assisted my professor with research in the MIXR Lab on campus. I want to close the disconnect between the students and the advisors. I also double minor in Computer Science and Design of the User Experience. The IT program itself is very customizable and has a lot of potentials to be a great course, however, it needs improvements. I believe some courses could be improved such as YWCC307, as it is a 1 credit course, with enough work to be a 3 credit course. Also, IT202, as the curriculum was a failure. I can be a bridge between the students and the department since there has not been a representative for the past couple of semesters.

Mathematical Sciences Representative

- **Nora Bouayad**

- My name is Nora Bouayad and I am a first-year Mathematical Sciences major with a concentration in Finance and Actuarial Science. During my first semester at NJIT, I joined Muslim Student Association and United Mission Relief. I recently became a student at large for Public Relations. I had a pretty successful fall semester and was able to make many friends. In high school, I was senior class treasurer and was very active in all class activities such as planning events. I was secretary my sophomore year and president my junior year for the French Club. I was secretary my sophomore year and treasurer for both my junior and senior years for the Engineering club. I was also a sophomore representative for my high school's Track & Field team. I am a social person and I enjoy being involved. If I'm elected as the Mathematical Sciences Representative I promise to stay organized and make sure to represent the Math Majors at NJIT well. I plan on bringing Math majors together and building a stronger community!

- **Pakhe Mewani**

- My name is Pakhe Mewani and I am a freshman majoring in statistics running for the math major representative position. My past roles as the XC Captain & Spanish National Honor Society president make me an ideal candidate for this position. In XC, I conveyed all the concerns of my team members to our coach and took initiative to improve the overall experience for the members (practices, team bonding, etc). As the SNHS president, I organized events and held weekly meetings where I made decisions that best suited the interests of the team and our school. If given this position, I will convey the opinions of the student body regarding improvements to the Senate to ensure that the largest portion of students is satisfied. Furthermore, I will take the initiative and actively communicate with senate members, faculty, and students to have a consensus for every



action by organizing frequent meetings and taking every voice into consideration. Thus, I will try my best to ensure that every student has opportunities to succeed.

Business and Information Systems Representative

○ Megha Saju

- Hi everyone! My name is Megha Saju, and I am a freshman majoring in Business and Information Systems. I am currently the Secretary of the EHSAAS dance team and a member of the Albert Dorman Honors College. I am involved in the Business Masterminds Club on campus and am looking to get more involved within the NJIT community. I am running for Business Information Systems Representative in order to better connect students with their departments. As a representative, I hope to improve the educational experience for other Business and Information Systems majors. I also hope to organize and plan events in order to create a greater sense of community among BIS students. Further, as a representative, I will actively collect feedback from students to communicate concerns and questions to faculty and administrators.



6. Director of Public Relations

- a. Serve as chairperson of the Public Relations Committee
- b. Execute the Student Senate Public Relations Budget
- c. Supervises the relations between Student Senate Alumni
- d. Coordinate and host all NJIT Student Senate events.
 - Should coordinate at least one headline senate event per semester.
- e. Overlook all the NJIT Student Senate social media accounts.
 - Should create a social media calendar for upcoming events.
- f. Must manage Highlander Hub and the NJIT Student Senate website.
- g. Perform all duties as assigned by the President.

7. Secretary

- a. Act as secretary at NJIT Student Senate meetings
- b. Serve as chairperson of the Internal Affairs Committee
- c. Supervise the use of NJIT Student Senate facilities and equipment
- d. Keep a record of membership and attendance at NJIT Student Senate general and committee meetings
- e. Manage the staffing of the Senate Office to ensure that there are always senators available to assist students
- f. Prepare copies of the ~~agenda~~minutes within three business days of each meeting. Maintain files of Senate proceedings including all minutes, reports, resolutions, and Senate decisions in both the Student Senate Drive and the Public Drive.
- g. Assist in updating senator information on the NJIT Student Senate website.
- h. Perform all duties as assigned by the President

SECTION 3 - Vacancies

- 2. ~~In the event a Senate position is vacant, the Senate shall advertise and attempt to fill the vacancy by accepting applications. aspirants will then go before Senate after more than one applicant has submitted an application, or one week after a single applicant has to a submitted an application. The Senate will vote on the applicants, with a supermajority being needed to accept them as a new Senator of the Student Senate. In the event a Senate position is vacant, the senate shall advertise and attempt to fill the vacancy by accepting applications. Consequent to the approval of the application, aspirants will then go before the Senate and present their case. The members of the Senate shall vote on the applicants, with the vote having the status of supermajority. After the completion of this process, the candidate will then either accept their role, or be dismissed.~~



SECTION 4 - Restriction on Dual Membership

No person shall hold more than one NJIT Student Senate position at any time. No individual may run for a position whilst holding a position within Senate. Therefore, an individual must resign from their current senate position prior to running for another position. However, if one does not attain their new position, they are able to re-run, if vacant.

6. Public Relations Committee

- a. The committee will be chaired by the Director of Public Relations Manager
- b. The voting members will be at least four Senators
 - i. The Director of Student Organizations may vote to break a tie
- c. A member of the committee will be appointed by the chairperson to act as secretary of the committee
- d. The duties of the committee will be to:
 - i. Publicize all NJIT Student Senate events, on and off campus
 - ii. Maintain the NJIT Student Senate social media accounts
 - Each member of the committee should actively be responsible for one social media platform, while abiding to the social media calendar.
 - Update social media platforms, as directed by the Director of Public Relations.
 - iii. Submit Senate-approved articles in the Vector
 - iv. Open and maintain dialogue with student governments of other colleges and any other interested parties
 - v. Coordinate all Student Senate Events

d. The duties of Internal Affairs Committee are:

- i. Function as the disciplinary committee for the NJIT Student Senate
- ii. Hold hearings regarding the impeachment of Senators
- iii. Interpret the meaning of the Constitution and recommend the impeachment of officers and senators who violate it
- iv. Each member of the committee should be well versed on their assigned articles of the Constitution given by the Secretary.
- iv. Develop the Standing Rules of the NJIT Student Senate and submit them to the NJIT Student Senate by the fourth Wednesday of the fall semester
- vi. Develop the Elections Packet of the NJIT Student Senate and submit