



MINUTES
Student Senate Meeting
30 September 2020, 2:30 PM
Virtual Meeting

1. Attendance
2. Minutes to Approve
 - a. September 23th, 2020
 - i. Minutes are approved.
3. Public Forum
 - a. Christina Pascucci, Associate Director of Student Life for Leadership & Programming
 - i. She is here to speak to us about leadership. She works with the Senate and works specifically with Owen and Mark. She was very excited about the changes being made. She works with multiple faculty members. She began a presentation explaining the importances of leadership. She explained that we have to lead by example. We have to make sure we challenge the process. We need to enable others to act. We need to make sure to encourage the heart.
4. Reports
 - a. Board of Trustees Finance and Audit Committee - Anuj Patel and Michael Moussa
 - i. Bloom had a meeting and there is a rumor and the Senate will pass a bill to increase funding for CARES, aid for schools, and one other thing and adding 18 million dollars to our bill (45 percent increase). We will probably break even. They will start discussing an annual budget in the next meeting. As long as we do not go to a shutdown, we are good financially. Higher education does not have strict restrictions. We are projected to reach 115 million dollars from Alumni. We will go to JP Morgan Chase and we will get 2 atms. The one in public safety is 24/7. They reached out to Wells Fargo to get information about atms and they do not want to help us. We are insured for a lot of things, such as general liability, property liability, etc. The way NJIT manages risks is through safety training and this is once ever.
 1. The Senators do not think the WEC atm would be utilized.
 - b. Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee - Jeremy Bedient and Victoria Nguyen
 - i. On Thursday, they both went to the committee meeting which included NJIT's enrollment assessment and our ranking. The application has increased in people's interest and the transfer has also increased. We have not seen a target of the 2025 enrollment but we are trying to have a good number of students enrolling compared to now. We are trying to find other ways to figure out test options. We began a program at a nearby highschool and we helped out robotics teams. We are trying to create a specialized program to help people finish college that began a while ago. NJIT is not top 100 anymore because they changed the methodology of the ranking (top 3 away). We have high student indebtedness since STEM tuitions are right.
 - c. Board of Trustees Campus Life Committee - Owen Busler and Mark Nashed
 - i. They are inviting people in response to what happened in the summer to audit our application and acceptance process. They talked about making the bad things good. We are working on an internal review and the finalized contract will be sent out (one year study). There will be no SAT required anymore since numerous colleges are doing the same thing. Two men on BOT gave meaningless opposition to Boger and everybody else disagreed. We are good at diversity and these men think we do not need to be better. They are worried that nobody is going to be involved in this online year and watching the doors



closely. BOT was considering writing a monthly update. We are bad at attracting women to our school and our men to women ratio is horrible.

- d. Board of Trustees Buildings and Grounds Committee - Philo Ibrahim and Evan Markowitz
 - i. As many of us are now aware, NJIT has been utilizing wastewater testing (among other forms) in order to get a broad view of what the COVID-situation is on-campus. The benefits of this system boil down to a massive decrease in cost for the same level of testing capacity, based on the idea that if an entire building is negative, you don't need to individually test people there. That said, there was a positive result in Cypress two weeks ago. On that Monday and Tuesday, Cypress Hall was sampled using this wastewater testing, on that Wednesday, a positive result was found and the building was immediately notified and instructed to quarantine in place and not leave campus. The greater campus was notified once all the information was gathered. On Thursday, the entirety of Cypress Hall was tested individually with PCR tests. **No positive cases were found in the individual testing.** This surprised the committee (and many students and parents) who were concerned about the testing methodology. That said, it likely boils down to a student who was positive and quarantining in Cypress Hall at the time. In order to prevent a full-building quarantine for a case that was already positive, students in quarantine will be moved to a smaller building (such as a Greek Village house) that can be tested on its own, reducing the potential for a "false positive" wastewater test. Following concerns of a lack of available information, a few things have happened so far: summaries of the wastewater, air, and surface test results are now available publicly on top of the full reports of all of those tests. Additionally, a secondary page is in the works which will report infection rates, **total tests performed**, and other important metrics. We are still seeing a reduced crime rate due to the lower-on campus population. Going forward, comparisons will be made both Year-to-date and two-years-to-date in order to get a clearer picture of campus once all students are back. Life Science and Engineering Center, which includes a brand new motion capture lab, is almost complete. It is a complementary lab to the one at Rutgers University, meaning that researchers will be able to utilize both labs and that neither lab has unnecessary/redundant components. This lowers the costs for both universities and will serve as a model for future collaborative laboratory spaces. Weston Lecture Halls 1 & 2 are almost done, but a port strike in Canada has prevented the chairs from being shipped. ETA for total project completion is four weeks. The Weston Hall roof is finished. There are also a few budget updates: Tiernan is getting a new HVAC system soon, Cullimore Lecture Hall 1 is finally being replaced after over forty years of disrepair, \$2MM will be spent on new research labs in the calendar year, and while we are still catching up as a campus with all of the maintenance/renewal work needed, the campus is on track to be totally caught up by 2025.
- e. University Senate - Anuj Patel and Jeremy Bedient
 - i. There was nothing important.
- f. University Senate Finance Committee - Michael Moussa
 - i. *Combined with minutes of Board of Trustees Finance and Audit Committee.*
- g. University Senate Human Resources Committee - Anuja Badeti
 - i. There was nothing important.
- h. Pandemic Recovery Instructional Delivery Subcommittee - Jeremy Bedient

SENATE

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

- i. There are a lot of people who believe it is a risk for people taking a risk due to COVID. They are trying to decide if we will have a spring break or not. January is a tough time with the flu and this will make things more difficult. A week of spring break is still a part of the semester. We do not know what spring 2021 will look like. One problem is that we cannot coordinate Rutgers Newark and we have no influence. Spring 2021 is zero percent chance that we are fully back in-person. There was a discussion if converged classes are worth it due to the amount of people going to class. The schedule is coming out the second week of October and the registrar is so stressed. It is a problem to push back registration and increasing the number of sections is a problem since we need to know the number of adjuncts we need. We will be using the wifi to find out how many students are going to class instead of back2classroom. The departments might be given the opportunity if they want to make the class online or not. Faculty should have a say in what is happening. They are meeting one more time this week to finalize everything.
 - i. Meeting with Andrew Christ - Anuja Badeti
 - i. Ivan and Ryan went off to Andrew. Andrew said plans cannot change. He talked about the committee and the meetings about the design. He said one undergraduate is not good enough of a representative for the student body. There is a lack of security in the video of the building and it is not realistic. They talked about the new amenities like why do we have TVs outside. The security is going to be run by the developers, who have the complete say.
- 5. Old Business
- 6. New Business
 - a. Internal Affairs Approving Standing Rules and adding Article III Roberts Rules
 - i. This was tabled until next week.
- 7. Announcements
 - a. Highlander Hype Week Events
 - i. Paint Night
 - ii. Yoga Event
- 8. Next Meeting
 - a. October 7th, 2020
 - i. Zoom