



Tuesday, April 9th, 2024 | 3:30 - 5:00 PM | **Kelly Commons**, Room 4C

Recording:

Minutes

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Speaker Kashifuddin Qazi, Senator Rani Roy, Senator Marcy Kelly, Senator Juanita Pacheco, Senator Michael McEneney, Senator Amanda Saseverino, Senator Enrico Forti, Senator Michelle Bell, Senator Qian Wang, Senator Barareh Estejab, Senator Miaomiao Zhang, Senator Amy Hanfield, Senator Matthew Schule
- b. Excused:
- c. Absent: Senator Ronald Gray, Senator Courtney Bryant, Senator Syrita Newman, Senator Kevin Nipal, Senator Brian Saul

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

4. Reading from the “Green Book”

- a. From the “Green Book”, Page 90, Queen Noor of Jordan “As believers, we all have an opportunity and moral obligation to recognize our spiritual common grounds: to rise above our differences: to combat prejudice and intolerance.”

5. Speaker’s Report

- a. This is the last meeting for the year and Speaker Qazi’s last year as speaker. Please email the Speaker for any positions whose tenure is ending so that arrangements can be made for new senators.
- b. An executive meeting will be held in the first week of May to elect the new officers.

6. Reports from the Standing Committees:

- a. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Roy
 - i. Block Scheduling - There is an Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the block schedule. There hasn’t been a vote on any changes yet.
 - ii. EAC Faculty Composition - The composition of the EAC was being reviewed. The proposal of the faculty representation was 3 representatives from the Kakos School of Arts and Sciences, 1 representative from the School of Engineering, and 1 representative from the O’Malley School of Business. Eleven members of the EAC were in Favor of this composition.

- iii. Academic Policy - For consistency, the change to a 2.0 GPA as good academic standing will take effect next catalog year to be in line with the requirement for federal/institutional aid. With regards to the conversation about Suspension, it has been decided to be removed, but the Advising Protocols will need to be reviewed first. The new standings will be Good Academic Standing, Probation, and Dismissal.
- iv. A faculty member from the Kakos School of Arts and Sciences proposed that there should be Midterm Grades for Summer Courses.
- v. The EAC is in the beginning stages of reviewing models for transferring Military Service as Credit.
- b. Campus Life Committee
 - i. The new Residence Life Director, Eric Rivera, started with the college last week.
 - ii. Student Government held elections and 10% of the campus participated in the vote. This is higher than the average at other colleges.
 - iii. The Dance Team will be performing in Florida later this week.
 - iv. The Performing Arts held its Spring Concert and will be performing in St. Paul's Church next week.
 - v. Club Frisby will have its first game.
 - vi. Club Tennis will be having a game in Fordham.

7. Old Business

- a. A motion was made and passed to switch the order of the items under Old Business.
- b. Composition of the EAC
 - i. The By-laws state that there only needs to be at least 1 representative from each school. The proposal from the EAC is that there are 3 representatives from the Kakos School of Arts and Sciences, 1 from the O'Malley School of Business, and 1 from the School of Engineering. The representatives will be chosen by the Dean and the Faculty of each School.
 - ii. The ratio is unknown at this time of Faculty per school.
 - iii. Senator Pacheco motioned to table the vote on this composition until the ratio is known and each Senator can reach out to their constituents. The motion was passed.
 - iv. Senator Bell raised a motion requesting a breakdown of the faculty ratio per school.
- c. Distribution of Faculty Senators per School
 - i. An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to propose options for the faculty composition within the Senate. Senator Bell presented these three options (link proposal). Senator McKenney suggested that we continue with option 1 to move swiftly without the need to amend the Constitution.
 - ii. Senator Forti wanted to know the logic for the Kakos School of Arts and Science having more representation.
 - iii. Senator Roy said that in this instance the ratio of Faculty to students/courses should be known.
 - iv. Senator Handfield read the by-laws noting that it only states at least 1 representative per school and 11 total representatives.
 - v. Senator Roy suggested that we keep the by-laws the same and that we reach out to CFA and the Deans to look at the process by which they wish to choose representatives.
 - vi. This will have to be decided by the first Wednesday of May.
 - vii. The motion was passed to not change the by-laws.
 - viii. The Speaker will reach out to Zahra Shahbazi from the CFA

8. New Business

- a. An executive meeting will be held on May 1st to vote for next year's officers.
- b. Address by President Riverso -

- i. President Riveriso discussed the Planning Priorities for the upcoming academic year. We will be in Phase III of the 5-year strategic plan. As a reminder the strategic plan focused on the below:
 1. Academic Excellence
 2. Student Success
 3. Community Engagement
 4. Financial Health and Sustainability
 5. Campus Infrastructure
- ii. He said that we have had some difficulties in the areas of Financial Health and Campus Infrastructure. He said that was the reason for many of the changes and the construction currently being done in Hayden. He mentioned that some required maintenance will also be done in Thomas Hall.
- iii. There will be a new budget manager starting on April 15th.
- iv. There will be projected losses of \$17 million this fiscal year.
- v. Different scenarios were presented to the board showing the projected loss based on enrollment. This year we had an enrollment of 685 students. Scenarios were presented with the goal of 730 students, which would have a \$2.5 million deficit. If we can reach 800 students we would not have a loss. If we have an enrollment of 600 students we would be at a \$13 million deficit.
- vi. The recent FAFSA changes have posed a challenge for getting packages out to accepted students. This will mean a delay in deposits. We are still waiting to get financial information from the 8,000 admitted students. We have currently received the information from about 3,000 of those students.
- vii. There will be an Accepted Students Day this Saturday. We are expecting 590 attendees.
- viii. President Riveriso discussed the Initiatives for this upcoming year -
 1. Enrollment
 2. Retention
 3. Honor Program Track
 4. Pathway agreements with other universities
 - a. There have been talks with Seton Hall and five universities in Scotland
 5. Transfer Articulations
 - a. The Associate Dean of the Kakos School of Arts and Sciences has been looking to update in Rockland and Westchester.
 - b. Also, work with High Schools and AP programs
 6. Build New Programs
 - a. Compressed programs
 - b. Increased Depth and Focus
 - c. Industry Connections
 - d. Online Learning
 - e. Micro-credentialing, Lifelong Learning, Continuing Education, Certifications
 - f. Summer Programs
 7. Invest in Marketing and Communications
 8. Manhattan University
 - a. This is in the pre-planning phase. There is a law firm working on preparing the paperwork. There will be a Project Manager assigned to this in-house. It will mostly spread across 2 fiscal years to alleviate the financial burden. The hope is to have a PR Splash and get the most out of the change.
 9. Customer Service Environment
 10. Smoke-Free Campus
 - a. We received the Truth Grant that will be used to help update our policy, add signage, and create designated off-campus areas for people to smoke.

c. Questions -

- i. Senator Wang asked if there were any specific goals with the Online programs. Senator Roy said that the new Executive Director of Online Learning is working on creating a priority list of Master's programs and Certificates to start with.

9. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.
- b. This was the last meeting of the Senate for this year.