



Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 | 3:30-5:00 pm | **Hayden Hall**, Room 409

Google Meet Recording Link:

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Speaker Juanita Pacheco, First Deputy Speaker Ioannis Rountos, Second Deputy Speaker Mehnaz Afridi, Secretary Andrew Berg, Senator Kristell Lowe, Senator Kenneth Sumner, Senator Hany Guirguis, Senator Michael McEneney, Senator Amanda Sanseverino, Senator Amir Masoumi, Senator Qian Wang, Senator Moujalli Hourani, Senator James McCullagh, Senator Miaomiao Zhang, Senator Bahareh Estejab, Senator Bernadette Lopez-Fitzsimmons, Senator Kevin Nipal, Senator Daniela Ramirez, Senator Anthony Campolo
- b. Absent: Senator Heidi Laudien, Senator Tyler Thomason, Senator Emily Gianni, Senator Phillip Austin, Senator Finn Malone, Senator Shahriar Mahi

Excused: Senator Amira Annabi, Senator Syrita Newman

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by the Manhattan University Senate.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were approved by the Manhattan University Senate.

4. Reading from the “Green Book”

Pg. 46

“Let us be united, let us be filled with hope, let us be those who respect one another.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

5. Speaker’s Report

Speaker Pacheco welcomes newly appointed senators Kenneth Sumner, Senator Lowe, and Senator McCulloh. There is one vacant senator administrator position. Interim President Bonato will join for the next Senate meeting, along with the CFO.

6. Reports from the Standing Committees:

a. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Sumner

The most recent meeting was held last week. Several things are currently in progress, such as block scheduling. There are talks about moving towards a newly designed block schedule. Senator Sumner attended both town halls for faculty and students, to gain feedback regarding the new proposal. Additionally, the AP course policy was voted on and approved. More information regarding this will be released later. Moodle access was discussed in terms of who can have access to different functions. The academic calendar for the summer sessions was approved. A calendar for the next 3-5 years is also in the works. The transfer credit policy for off campus courses was reviewed and discussed.

b. Campus Life Committee (CLC): Senator Lowe

Several significant updates were revealed. The residence hall program is in place for spring. Some events that were hosted included Super Bowl and Valentine's Day events. Furthermore, the RA program is being revamped. Senator Lowe stressed the importance of developing the RAs to ensure optimal leadership. She mentioned supporting students in the residence halls. Residence life is in the process of recruiting for RAs for the 2025-2026 academic year. Additionally, new prerequisites include living at least one semester before applying for a position. Residence life thought it was appropriate and meaningful to have experience living on campus. It was also revealed that the GPA requirement will increase from 2.5 to 3.0. There were 70 RA applications, with 65 qualifying and moving forward to the group process date. Out of the 65 invited, 63 participated and are now being invited to an interview, which will be conducted this and next week. Currently in process of setting up housing options for spring break. Residence halls will close during break, but willing to accommodate students. For Easter, the residence halls will be open. The goal is to make it for students to feel at home by allowing them to enjoy the residence halls. There are inquiries about summer housing and fall applications, and roommate matching is being finalized. Looking at the software, SoftRez, it is powerful but is underutilized. Thus, Residence Life is working with the support team to better understand its capabilities.

There is going to be tight collaboration with the VP of Facilities on holding accountability meetings with Aramark facilities. They want to see better results in cleanliness and work orders. Looking for satisfaction surveys to be implemented, as this would be a great way to receive feedback. Every Monday I receive a list of outstanding work orders. Student engagement had a leadership transition with the departure of John Bennett. As a result, applications are open and applicants are being screened and advanced to interviews, if they meet the initial qualifications. It is critical to fill the role on a timely basis. Senator Lowe took on a large portion of the role. She met with representatives from the Student Government, including the executive board. Some upcoming dates include Jasper Day of Wellness. The student government is doing a great job with engagement on campus and has just finalized the schedule for the wellness day.

The MAAC tournament will be held from March 11-15. All spirit squads will be traveling. Springfest will be on Saturday, April 5, as well as all the end of academic year events. Intramural sports have commenced. The multifith prayer space is currently located on the 4th floor of Kelly. However, students have said that the meeting space is not ideal. The goal is to have a refurbished space by the end of the month. Also, the team is working on advancing south campus. Not all students can be on the Quad, due to scheduling and other obligations. In fact, more than 70% of engineering students are commuters. Because of this, the school must do a better job of activating that part of campus. There are several pop-up events organized by dining services. The idea of orientation day is about building pride and excitement of being a Jasper. One tool to use is making students understand is that if they

have all their perquisites and placements tests complete, students can have their schedules for the fall semester. Legacy events which include Family weekend and Welcome weekend want to be made vibrant and exciting. The Jasper Dancers competed in regionals and finished 1st place in hip hop.

Public safety conducted emergency training for our faculty. It was very well attended. All public safety officers were trained in customer service. Jasper Safe was also rolled out and are in coordination with local businesses. Jaspers can go into a business to feel safe, which will make them certified Jasper Safe. The local businesses will call public safety or call 9-1-1, if it's an emergency. Tabletop exercise for Cabinet members. The Center for Career Development hosted the Spring Career Fair. The fair had about 80 employers. The number of attendees will be reported at the next meeting. The commencement exercises will happen on May 16 and 17. Preparation will start once the semester concludes. It will be a very full campus this summer. Additionally, dining services used winter break to reset and take its operations to the next level. This included reopening Café 1853, the grand opening of Zaro's. Broadway Joes was not satisfactory, so a change was made to a new anchor, Ciao Bella. Dining services made adjustments at Lockes based on feedback from faculty and students. Hydro garden was brought back. Culinary council was formed. Trying to have students understand meal plans and dining dollars to use them optimally.

7. Old Business

No old business was discussed.

8. New Business

The agenda committee met last week and had two main concerns. One was the lack of communication with students about meal plan changes and fitness center maintenance and upkeep.

The President's Strategic planning committee is underway, with the President serving as the chair. The committee will encourage constant feedback from students, faculty, and staff.

9. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was approved by the Manhattan University Senate. The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 25 at 3:30 PM.