

Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 | 3:30 pm | Google Meet

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**Agenda**

1. Roll Call

a. Present: Speaker Amy Handfield, First Deputy Speaker Karen Nicholson, Second Deputy Speaker Eunice Nazar, Secretary Isabel Frazza, Senator Emmanuel Ago, Senator Richard Satterlee, Senator Steven Schreiner, Senator Tim Ward, Senator Michael McEneney, Senator Min Jung Kim, Senator Jimena Gonzalez Ramirez, Senator William Merriman, Senator Ian Levy, Senator Lina Baroudi, Senator Mohab El-Hakim, Senator Heidi Furey, Margaret Toth, Senator Angel Pineda, Senator Sarah Wacker, Senator Sebastian Deguisto, Senator Michael Rafferty.

Presenters: President Brennan O’Donnell.

b. Absent: Senator Margaret McKieran, Senator Syrita Newman, Senator Luis Garcia, Senator Xavier Kyla, Senator Bryan Mckeon, Senator Maura Mead, Senator Alexander Nieves.

2. Approval of the Agenda

a. Approved by a quorum.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

a. Approved by a quorum.

4. Reading from the “Green Book”

a. Page 42: “Education is all the matter of building bridges.” -Ralph Ellison 5. Speaker’s Report

a. Speaker Handfield informed the senators that the Alumni Room in the library is available if the time comes when it is safe to hold meetings in person.

b. Speaker Handfield informed members that all Standing Committee positions have been filled, except for a position on the Board of Trustees for Enrollment Management.

c. Speaker Handfield calls for a Student Senator to volunteer for Working Group 7 for the college’s Self Study.

6. Reports from the Standing Committees

a. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Schreiner

i. Senator Schreiner spoke on items discussed at the special meeting held on August 18th:

1. The grading policy will return to normal for the Fall 2020 semester.

2. The Add/Drop end date was moved from Friday, September 4th, to Monday, September 7th.

3. Student attendance was discussed, and will remain the same.

4. An In-Class Camera Policy was established:

a. In order to promote community, it is important that faculty

are able to interact and engage with students. Thus, during

online lectures, students are required to leave their cameras

turned on. Students with extenuating circumstances may

request an exemption from this requirement to the professor

in writing.

b. This policy will be discussed again in October.

5. The opportunity to combine the School of Liberal Arts with the School of Science has arised, and is currently being discussed.

b. Campus Life Committee (CLC): Senator Ago

i. A meeting of the CLC will be held in early October, with the focuses of this semester being:

1. Student parking.

2. Collaboration with the Manhattan College Diversity Council, as well as with members of the Black Student Union.

ii. Senator Ago thanks Senator Satterlee and the entire Campus Life Committee for their efforts in adjusting the workings of Campus Life to the current

climate of COVID-19.

iii. Senator Ago emphasizes the focus of the CLC this semester on working alongside the Black Student Union and the Diversity

7. Old Business

a. No old business was brought up by the Senators in attendance.

8. New Business

a. Remarks from the President:

i. President O’Donnell acknowledged the challenges that the college has faced since the beginning of March.

ii. President O’Donnell urged the question, how will we, as a college, adapt to the new climate, while taking our Lasallian values into consideration?

iii. President O’Donnell brought attention to upcoming educational

opportunities around racism available for members of the Manhattan College community.

iv. President O’Donnell touched on three main areas the college has been working on:

1. Return to Campus:

a. Thanked the efforts of those who have worked to bring

students back to campus and ensured that classes could

resume.

i. 60% of undergraduate students have returned to

campus, 40% of undergraduate students remain off

campus as remote learners.

b. Emphasis on the flexibility of the college in these uncertain times.

c. The enrollment team recruited an incoming class of 747

students.

d. On-Campus testing was mandated for everyone on campus, and is being conducted on a random basis for a certain

percentage of the community throughout the semester.

2. Economic Impact

i. Spending was decreased in many areas.

ii. $9 million gap

1. Cost saving measures are being taken.

a. Reassessing spending health insurance

policies, no raised salaries for faculty.

3. Strength of the Community

a. Implemented an in-depth plan for a stronger emphasis on creating an inclusive environment and promoting social justice.

i. The establishment of the Diversity Council.

b. Higgins Engineering Center

i. The new building is 99% complete, and will be open

for the Spring semester.

c. A celebration for the graduation of the Class of 2020 is being

discussed.

i. The class has stressed their desire to wait for a time

when an in-person commencement ceremony is a safe

option, rather than to hold a virtual ceremony in the

near future.

b. Topics from the Senate Membership

i. No topics were raised by the Senators in attendance.

9. Adjourn

a. Meeting called to an end at 4:19 pm. The next Senate meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20th.