



MANHATTAN
COLLEGE

SENATE

Minutes

Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 | 3:30 pm | Google Meet

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Minutes

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Speaker Amy Handfield, First Deputy Speaker Karen Nicholson, Second Deputy Speaker Eunice Nazar, Senator Sonny Ago, Senator Richard Satterlee, Senator Steven Schreiner, Senator Tim Ward, Senator Michael McEneny, Senator Min Jung Kim, Senator Jimena Gonzalez Ramirez, Senator William Merriman, Senator Ian Levy, Senator Lina Baroudi, Senator Mohab El-Hakim, Senator Heidi Furey, Senator Margaret Toth, Senator Angel Pineda, Senator Sarah Wacker, Senator Margaret McKiernan, Senator Syrita Newman, Senator Sebastian Deguisto, Senator Luis Garcia, Senator Maura Mead, Senator Michael Rafferty.

Presenters: President O'Donnell, Matthew McManness, AJ Goodman.

- b. Absent: Senator Xavier Kyle, Senator Bryon McKeon, 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: 88: “ The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenges and controversy.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
 - b. Page 38: “Always address people by their names, and with great respect.” -Saint John Baptiste de La Salle.
5. Speaker’s Report
 - a. Speaker Handfield reports that a statement from the housekeeping department will be postponed.
 - b. Speaker Handfield reminds senators to raise their hand in order to ask a question, and
 - c. Those who are not senators, can send questions to the president@manhattan.edu.
6. Reports from the Standing Committees
 - a. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Schreiner
 - i. Provost Schreiner reports on highlights from the most recent EAC meeting held on November 3rd.

1. A new Digital Arts major through the School of Liberal Arts has been approved.
2. The Graduate Council reported Spring 2021 graduate courses. The council discussed the fall increase in enrollment. Overall, graduate program enrollees are up 7% over last year in total numbers and 62% in new enrollees. The Office of Admissions is aiming to have 78 new students join us in the spring term. Strategic marketing efforts are continuing to evolve to allow specific graduate programs to reach the appropriate audiences. The Council is considering creating an ad hoc committee to study the variety of roles that GAs play at Manhattan College.
3. There was no new or old business discussed by the committee during this meeting.

b. Campus Life Committee (CLC): Senator Ago

- i. Senator Ago reports on the highlights of the most recent meeting held by the CLC.
 1. The possibility of care packages being delivered to those in quarantine from Residence Life was discussed.
 2. The cleaning of bathrooms on quarantine floors was brought up.
 3. The importance of keeping up with work order reports on quarantined floors, specifically with furniture, was discussed.

4. The students reported being impressed with the meal delivery service for those in quarantine on campus, specifically with the new online menu request system.
5. The Quarantine Office and the Orientation Office have worked together to assist new students, and their efforts will continue.
6. They have provided PPE and laptop loaners.
7. The committee commends the efforts in diversity and inclusion made by Hayden Greene of the Multicultural Center, John Bennet of Student Engagement, and Lois Harr of Campus Ministry and Social Action.
8. A hybrid student activities fair is planned for the Spring semester.
9. Updates from the Diversity Council:
 - a. Training in diversity has been provided to faculty.
 - b. Ongoing events and programs continue the diversity efforts of the college.
10. A campus climate survey will be sent out to the entire campus community. Senator Ago encourages everyone to submit a response to the survey in order to assist with the group's research.

7. Old Business

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

8. New Business

- a. Financial State of the College: Matthew McMannus, VP of Finance; President Brennan O'Donnell; Steven Schreiner, Provost.
 - i. President O'Donnell thanks the college community for their work in maintaining a healthy and safe environment on campus.
 - ii. President O'Donnell acknowledges the financial challenges that the college has been facing as a result of the pandemic.
 - iii. This year's budget is constantly being evaluated in an attempt to navigate these challenges.
 - iv. The Faculty Welfare Committee, along with numerous faculty members, have submitted requests to the college.
 - v. The President, Provost and faculty members met in order to address concerns regarding communication and decisions being made as a result of the financial challenges the college is facing.
 - vi. Matthew McMannus, VP of Finance presents on the current financial state of the college.
 1. The current projected deficit is \$10 million. The deficit is a result of:
 - a. A loss of 8.2 million-8.4 million in revenue from room and board.
 - b. An increased cost in testing.
 - c. An increased cost in PPE.

vii. The following are questions presented and answered in the presentation by the VP of Finance.

1. Where do we currently stand with solutions?
 - a. We are just over halfway to the goal.
2. What are we considering?
 - a. A significant series of adjustments to manage the deficit.
3. What is the order of implementation?
 - a. The priority order is as follows:
 - i. Miscellaneous Expense Savings
 - ii. Miscellaneous Insurance Savings
 - iii. Adjustments to Service Contracts
 - iv. Adjustments to Contracts
 - v. General Operating Fund Cuts
 - vi. Overtime Savings
 - vii. Health Plan
 - viii. Salary Reduction
 - ix. Retirement Contribution Reduction
 - x. Personal Adjustments- Furloughs
4. What are the trigger points for each solution?

- a. The trigger points have already been met. We have variations of each opportunity we are testing in order to balance the budget.
- viii. The senators were given time to ask questions about the presentation. Those with questions that are not senators were given the opportunity to ask questions by email, moderated by Peter McHugh.
 1. Senators raised concerns about a lack of shared governance among the administration, faculty, and students. Senators raised questions about furloughs and the process under which they are being considered. Questions were raised about budget cuts within the athletics department, as it did not seem to be clearly detailed in the presentation. The presenters answered that cuts have already been made in the athletics department, with careful consideration being taken as to the amount of revenue that athletics bring in for the college. A question was raised regarding whether the college has considered taking funds from their endowment, to which the presenters responded that they are reluctant to do so, since the funds cannot be put back into the endowment after they are taken out. Time was limited, and not all questions were able to be answered. However, the possibility of an open forum with administration and faculty was

proposed, offering another outlet for the exchange of questions and answers at a later date.

b. Housing application process for Winter Intersession: AJ Goodman, Assistant Dean of Students

- i. In an interest of time, Senator Satterlee briefly explains the process for reviewing applications for housing during the Winter Intersession:
 1. The CARE team reviews the applications, looking for those who are in dire need of housing assistance during the Winter Intersession.
 2. The decision regarding whether or not to charge students for housing during the Winter Intersession is being reviewed, as these students are in situations where they are in need of housing.
- ii. AJ Goodman, Assistant Dean of Students provided this information via email after the meeting:
 1. Notice to residents was sent on October 26 and November 3, reminding them of the impending closing of the residence halls and providing them information on the application.
 2. As of now, we have 83 applications.
 3. The CARE Team has approved 76 applications:
 - a. 37 students were approved for participation in campus programs (women's and men's basketball, Resident Assistants)

- b. 14 students were approved to stay overnight and leave by 10 am on 11/25
- c. 11 students were approved to stay through Finals.
- d. 14 students were approved to stay through the full break.
- e. The application remains open to students. Four students withdrew their applications and two were submitted recently and have not received a response.

9. Adjourn

- a. Meeting called to an end at 5:06 pm. The next Senate meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, 2021.