



MANHATTAN  
COLLEGE

---

# SENATE

## Minutes

Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 3:30 pm | Google Meet

[meet.google.com/mod-xjeu-ivf](https://meet.google.com/mod-xjeu-ivf)

Livestream url : <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/8c2e8b74-d791-44a2-97b5-f6002a69a765>

## **Minutes**

### 1. Roll Call

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

Presenters: Werner Habermann, Assistant Director of Customer Service and Student Employment; Charles Clency, Director of Residence Life; Senator Steven Schreiner, Provost.

- b. Absent: Senator Margaret McKiernan, , Senator Maura Mead.
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: 94 : “Example makes a much greater impression than words.” -St. John Baptist de la Salle
  5. Speaker’s Report
    - a. Anonymous questions for Matthew McManness, VP of Finance
      - i. Questions, collected through anonymous forums, have been submitted to the Senate, and passed along to the VP of Finance.
    - b. Speaker Handfield reports that there will be a Senate sponsored meeting regarding finance on Monday, February 22nd, 2021 at 1 pm.
      - i. The meeting will continue the discussion on the financial state of the college, and allow for further questions to be answered.
  6. Reports from the Standing Committees
    - a. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Schreiner

- i. The College Wide Curriculum committee has approved a Masters of Science program in Accounting.
  - ii. The Ad Hoc committee on Graduate Assistantships has met. The committee will look at the status of these assistantships on campus, and to investigate the policies and terminology of the program.
  - iii. A minor modification to the academic integrity policy was proposed and approved by the EAC in order to clarify communication between faculty and students.
  - iv. The current plan for the fall semester is to return to in-person classes, as long as health and safety guidelines permit it.
- b. Campus Life Committee (CLC): Senator Ago
- i. The Student Employment Committee, established in 2019, faces current issues such as the impact of reduced budgets on student employment, as well as remote employment opportunities for students.
  - ii. The Orientation Program for midyear transfer and new students took place last month, in a hybrid format.
  - iii. The Campus Climate Working Group of the Diversity Council conducted a campus climate survey, and is currently working towards
  - iv. COVID fatigue was addressed, and plans are being discussed to promote a sense of community for students, and safe congregation of students to combat this.

- v. The Counseling Center is conducting remote student support groups for those in quarantine. The Student Engagement Office has initiated quarantine-friendly activities.
- vi. The members of the Jasper Fit Program are beginning outreach to students in quarantine.

7. Old Business

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

8. New Business

a. **Remarks on Financial Aid and Student Employment:**

- i. Werner Habermann, Assistant Director of Customer Service and Student Employment

- 1. Werner Habermann discussed the process by which students can apply for employment.
- 2. Senator Frazza asked if students are able to hold two work study positions at one time, if their first position has hired them for limited hours due to COVID regulations, and their hours accumulate to less than the amount granted by the Federal Work Study program.

- a. Students are only permitted to work within one department.

The second position is allowed only if it is a tutoring or community service position.

b. **Remarks on Residence Life and Student Housing:**

- i. Charles Clency, Director of Residence Life
  1. The bridge entrance to Lee Hall was closed for the first two weeks of move-in, in order to allow Residence Life staff to keep track of who was coming into the building.
  2. An email was sent out on February 2nd which provided the schedule for the bridge entrances to the residence halls.
    - a. The bridge entrances will be open Monday through Thursday 6:00 am- 11:00 pm.
    - b. On Friday, the bridge is closed at 6:00 pm on Friday evening, and closed for the weekend until it is reopened on Monday mornings at 6:00 am.
- ii. The floor was opened for questions from senators.
  1. Senator Frazza asked if the frequency of cleaning was increased in the area of the first floor entrance over the weekends, due to there being more traffic entering through one entrance.
    - a. Charles Clency answered that cleaning occurs daily, two to three times during the week, and two times during the weekends. He stated that the custodial staff would be more aware of the answer to the question, and he would relay it over to them.

2. Senator Frazza brought up the discrepancies in security, specifically in regards to COVID-19 safety, between the residence halls. The senator highlighted the lack of public safety officers at the entrances to Chrysostom Hall and Jasper Hall, thus allowing students to enter these buildings without presenting their “green passes,” both during the week and on weekends.

- a. Charles Clency answered that having no security officer at the two residence halls has been an ongoing issue, prior to the pandemic. He added that the daily “green pass” operates as an honor system. There is discussion taking place in regards to upgrading security at both Jasper and Chrysostom Halls.

However, there is currently no action plan in place at this time.

3. Senator Frazza brought up the reasoning given for closing the bridge entrances on the weekends, being that there is a fear of students bringing outside guests into the building, and asked if there is anything to show that this concern should be heightened on the weekends, in comparison to the weekdays.

- a. Charles Clency stated that due to class schedules, and an increased traffic of students entering and exiting the buildings, closing the bridge entrances during the week is not feasible at this time.

b. Senator Satterlee added that the college has struggled with hiring public safety staff during the pandemic. The college hopes to staff the bridge entrances with public safety officers in the near future, as long as the hiring of more public safety officers goes as planned.

**c. Remarks on Middle States Accreditation and Shared Governance**

- i. Provost Schreiner announces that a self study is being conducted, in preparation for the Middle States Accreditation Visit which occurs next year.
- ii. Specifically, information regarding shared governance is currently being gathered by a working group.
  1. Surveys focused on shared governance on campus will likely be conducted soon, in order to receive feedback necessary for the visit.
- iii. The floor was opened for questions from senators about shared governance.
  1. Senator El-Hakim called for increased transparency surrounding the criteria used for furloughs made last fall. He also asked if there is a known timeline for when those furloughs will be up, and if the college knows when they will rehire these individuals.
    - a. Senator Schreiner responded, acknowledging the difficulty of conducting the furloughs that were necessary due to the pandemic . He added that HR has developed an official policy regarding how furloughs are decided, in which the criteria is

laid out. The factors looked at included seniority, as well as others.

- b. He added that it is not yet known when the furloughs will be up, and there are many answers that the administration does not yet know during these difficult times.

2. Senator Lina Baroudi asked if the college has discussed the possibility of future reparations being given to college faculty for their work during the height of the pandemic.

- a. Senator Schreiner answered that there has been no discussion of future reparations.

3. Senator Margaret Toth asked a question about the details of a proposed policy on public expression.

- a. The discussion is going to take place through the EAC, with feedback to be considered by the community, before the policy is enacted.

- b. Senator Satterlee emphasized that the policy is aimed at affirming freedom of expression by members of the campus community.

4. Senator Angel Pineda asked if the college is currently borrowing money for operations, and if they have done so in the past few years.



a. Senator Schreiner answered that the college is not currently borrowing money for operations, and stated that, to his knowledge, they have not done so in the past.

5. Senator Furey asked if the in-class camera policy may be revisited in discussion at the next Senate meeting.

a. The policy has been added to the agenda for the next Senate meeting.

9. Adjourn

a. Meeting called to an end at 4:34 pm. The next Senate meeting will be held on March 16th, 2021 at 3:30 pm.