

Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 | 3:30- 5 pm | Google Meet

Meeting: meet.google.com/bnr-xkus-tbk

Livestream: stream.meet.google.com/stream/61b6a232-a90e-490d-aae5-78d4c0e370a1 **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 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, Senator Margaret Toth, Senator Angel Pineda, Senator Sarah Wacker, Senator Syrita Newman, Senator Sebastian Deguisto, Senator Luis Garcia, Senator Maura Mead, Senator Alexander Nieves, Senator Michael Rafferty. Presenters: President Brennan O’Donnell

b. Absent: Senator Xavier Kyle, Senator Bryan McKeon.

2. Approval of the Agenda

a. The agenda was approved by a quorum.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

a. The minutes were approved by a quorum.

4. Reading from the “Green Book”

a. Page 88. “As believers we all have an opportunity and moral obligation to recognize our spiritual common grounds: to rise above or differences: to combat prejudice and intolerance. Queen of Jordan

5. Speaker’s Report

a. Speaker Handfield reported that this is the final regular meeting of the senate but Tuesday, April 27th, 12:00pm-1:00 pm will be the election meeting for Senate officers for 2021-2022.

Tuesday, April 27th, 12:00pm-1:00 pm

b. Speaker Handfield reminded those in attendance who would like to speak to raise their hand using the Google Meet tool, or to type that they would like to speak in the chat.

6. Reports from the Standing Committees

a. Strategic Planning Update: Annual Goals: President O’Donnell

i. The President reported that the strategic planning process of the college has entered its third phase.

1. This phase includes focus on these major themes:

a. Academic Excellence

b. Student Success

c. Community Engagement

d. Financial Health & Stability

e. Campus Infrastructure

2. The steering committee has identified three strategic themes for the

2021-2022 year:

a. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

b. Revenue Generation

c. Enrollment

3. The President stated that he shared a document that goes into the goals of the college in detail in an email sent on April 15th, 2021 and would briefly touch on these goals as a part of his presentation.

a. Emerging Goal: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

i. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for managers

and search committees, applying DEI initiatives towards

services for undergraduate, graduate, and

non-traditional students.

ii. An initiative to improve Academic Affairs by working

towards digitizing secure records was mentioned.

b. Emerging Goal: Student Life

i. Working with the Diversity Council to improve the

condition of residence halls, counselling services, and

overall health and wellness of the college.

c. Emerging Goal: Office of Mission

i. To work with HR on DEI initiatives

ii. To place emphasis on the identity of the college and

connections to both Catholic and LaSallian networks.

d. Emerging Goal: Enrollment Management

i. The current applicant pool. is high (1,700 applications to date)

ii. . There was a strong interest in virtual Accepted

Students’ Day

iii. To continue to work on increasing Graduate enrollment

iv. To increase partnerships that enhancement the

enrollment of transfer students

e. Emerging Goal: Human Resources

i. To develop DEI best practices for the departments

activities

f. Emerging Goal: Finance

i. To work toward developing a five year budget model

planning project

ii. To increase support to the college’s Physical Plant

g. Emerging Goal: College Advancement

i. A focus on unrestricted giving. The current capital

campaign has raised 151 million towards its original goal

of 165 million in the next ten years

ii. Continue to develop, and maintain alumni relations

using technology to engage alumni.

h. Emerging Goal: Marketing and Communications

i. Work on restoring attention and funding towards

college publications and promoting the presentation of

the college.

i. Emerging Goal: Legal and External Affairs

i. To transition the OneManhattan program created in

response to COVID-19 to a platform that works on

infrastructure, compliance, and risk management.

4. Senator Pineda asked a question in regard to an email that was sent on April 15th 2021 about how the surplus in finances from the CARES Act was used.

a. President O’Donnell answered that the surplus he is familiar with is a $7,000 positive in the overall college budget for the current fiscal year. He stated that there have been additional

revenue shortfalls related to COVID-19ecpences and increase in financial aid packages.

b. Vice President McManness commented that the email sent out listed highlights, not specific numbers. Both he and the Faculty Welfare Committee would be open to answering any additional questions.

5. Jake Holmquist suggested that the college increase its digital accessibility initiatives and this should be included in the

email/document in question

a. President O’Donnell mentioned that the document functions as

a map of the different areas of the college and how they may be

improved

6. Lois Harr encouraged that the Chapel renovations be focused on in the plans to improve the infrastructure of the college.

a. President O’Donnell responded that the project has precedence

and is at the top of the list. The monies dedicated to the

renovation of the windows may be able to be applied to other

repairs of Smith Hall

b. Matthew McManness mentioned that the Smith Hall

renovations have been divided into three separate project and

that quotes have been requested

b. Educational Affairs Committee (EAC): Senator Schreiner

i. Provost Schreiner reported that the EAC met on April 6th, 2021.

1. The College Technology Committee reported the technology lessons learned from COVID-19.

a. Jake Holmquist noted that initiatives regarding technologies will

continue using a “People, Process, and Platform approach.’

2. The Graduate Council reported that there is an increase in Graduate admissions.

a. The Council is currently working with an outside advisory board

to conduct a market analysis that researches the market

potential of various graduate programs.

3. The EAC continues to work on policy making. Most importantly policy regarding faculty’s intellectual property and how it can be protected.

a. There is a discussion regarding a college-wide syllabus policy to

address the potential copyright infringement of intellectual

property.

c. Campus Life Committee (CLC): Senator Ago

i. Senator Ago thanked the students for their service on the committee, acknowledging that many are graduating this year.

ii. The CLC met for the last time of the school year this month. The meeting included the following topics of discussion:

1. There are logistical concerns about commencement, specifically in regard to parents, and other guests.

2. The Diversity Council discussed plans to open up the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives to the wider college community. 3. Angelica Vasquez is stepping down from her position as chair of the Student Employment Committee. Senator Ago commended her for her service and recommended that those in attendance look to the school’s employment webpage.

4. The orientation office plans to offer a hybrid approach for the incoming class this summer, with remote orientations in June, along with in-person engagement opportunities on campus in small groups.

iii. Rachel Roca asked for an elaboration of the college’s plans to communicate more information about commencement to parents.

1. Senator Schreiner answered that a plan for the specific dates and times should be finalized and would be sent out to the class after the meeting.

iv. Mehnaz Afridi expressed a concern that students feel they are not being heard in the administration’s plans for commencement. She emphasized that it is incredibly important that the administration listen to, and hear the students in

planning commencement. She also asked who will be attending the

ceremonies.

1. Senator Schreiner explained that the ceremonies will be limited to the

students and a few administrators who will be assisting. He explained

that administrators have met with student leaders, are listening, and are

working to accommodate those concerns.

v. A question was raised in the chat, as to whether honors such as medals will be given out during the ceremonies.

1. Senator Schreiner answered that there will be a virtual baccalaureate

mass, and medals will be distributed afterwards at an in person

ceremony. The specifics are still being worked out, with the students.

7. Old Business

a. Resolution to Endorse Faculty, Student, and Staff Membership on the Manhattan College Board of Trustees

i. Senator Toth stated that the resolution began as a response to concerns raised by constituents in regard to a lack of shared governance throughout the

college.

1. There are a few changes in the proposal:

a. The language has been changed to better reflect the role of the Senate.

b. The procedure by which the staff and student representatives will be nominated has been added to the proposal.

ii. Senator Furey thanked everyone for their communication, input, and feedback. Senator Furey acknowledged a few of the comments from the last meeting.

1. Senator Furey reiterated that this resolution is only a request to the president. It would then have to go through the President, and the Board.

2. Senator Furey addressed the concern of senators that commented that this is not usual of other colleges. She expressed that Manhattan College is not usual and emphasized a sense of community amongst the college.

3. Senator Furey added that the goal of the resolution was not to take over the Board of Trustees. With only three added voting members, the balance does not change much, but it does allow for more of a voice for the students, staff, and faculty.

iii. The resolution was moved to the table for the following discussion: 1. Senator Pineda acknowledged the diverse perspectives within the Senate and commended this body for its diversity. He expressed support for the resolution as it brings this diversity in perspectives to the Board of Trustees.

2. Senator Satterlee thanked the proposers of the resolution for bringing forward the topic of shared governance and expressed support for the intent of the resolution. Senator Satterlee expressed dissent for the resolution due to the unique fiduciary responsibility of the Board of Trustees.

3. Senator Ward called on staff and student representatives to share their opinions of the resolution.

4. Senator Nazar shared that Senator Toth and Senator Furey conducted conversations with Student Government, and the student body has not expressed any negative opinions about the resolution and are in full support of this proposal.

5. Senator Newman stated that the Staff Council is currently in the process of finding a new President and opening up the group for new members who have recently been hired. Senator Newman was only able to share the proposal with the Treasurer, and Vice President, who supported the proposal.

6. Senator Schreiner expressed appreciation for the sense of community at the college. He stated that he is unsure if this proposal is the right action to achieve the goal of improving shared governance. He acknowledged the difference in the various responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, from responsibilities of other members of the

college community. He encouraged efforts to improve existing structures for shared governance within the community. 7. Senator Furey commended the points made by both Senator Schreiner and Senator Satterlee. She emphasized that shared governance will not be improved fully with this resolution. She also expressed the opinion that, since the Board of Trustees is responsible for making such important decisions, students, staff, and faculty, should be a part of those decisions.

8. A question was raised in the chat as to what the specific concern is in regard to the potential harm of this proposal.

a. Senator Schreiner answered that he is concerned about a conflict of interest that may be present, along with the

resolution changing the structure of the board. He is

concerned about this resolution creating more of a wedge between administration, and other members of the college community if the President is unable to go through with the recommendation.

9. Ira Gerhardt encouraged against deciding on the resolution based on the President’s future actions. He expressed support of the proposal as a means for senators to show support for the increased

involvement of the wider college community within shared

governance.

10. Senator Toth brought up Senator Nazar’s comment in the chat, which questioned how the resolution would be harmful. She agreed that a

potential conflict of interest may be a concern, but that the benefits of

the resolution outweighs this one potential downside.

11. Barbara Fabe reiterated the clarification that the Vice Presidents, as

administrators on the Board of Trustees, do not have voting powers on

the Board.

b. The Resolution was passed with a vote of:

i. In Favor: 13

ii. Abstain: 1

iii. Opposed: 3

8. New Business

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

9. Adjourn

a. Meeting called to an end at 5:10 pm. This is the final, full Senate meeting of the academic year. The next meeting on April 27th is for election of officers.