Minutes
Meeting of a Stated Meeting of the
Senate of New York University
October 7, 2010

A stated meeting of the Senate of New York University was held on Thursday, October 7, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., in Room 914 of the Kimmel Center for University Life. The meeting was convened with Dr. Sexton in the chair.

Faculty Senators Council Members Present: Susan Anton, Levon Capan, Sylvain Cappell, Raphael David, Anne Deneyes-Tunney (for Nava Rubin), Nicholas Economides, James Fernandez, Douglas Gale, Ricki Goldman, Floyd Hammack, Carol Hutchins, Kose John, Mary Ann Jones, Rebecca Karl, Anthony Kovner, Ted Magder, Marie Monaco, Terence Moran, Molly Nolan, Jason Phillips, Laurin Raiken, Robert Schacht (Chair), Karen Shimakawa (for Paul Thompson), Eric Simon, Arthur Tannenbaum, Alexander Tuzhilin (for Raghu Sundaram), Anthony Vernillo and Daniel Zwanzinger.


Deans Council Members Present: Jess Benhabib, Charles Bertolami (Chair), Mary Brabeck, Mary Schmidt Campbell, Frederick Choi, Joanne Hvala (for Peter Blair Henry), Robert Lapiner, Ellen Schall, Mal Semple, Lynn Videka and Susanne Wofford.

Administrative Management Council Members Present: John DeSantis, Katherine Drummond, Anita Dwyer (Chair), Camille Harriott (for Marguerite Sharkey) and Michael Summers.

University Administration Members Present: Michael Alfano, Robert Berne, Bonnie Brier and David McLaughlin.
Introductions

Each Senator introduced him or herself, stating the Senator’s school and/or department.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the April 29, 2010 Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the April 29, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

In Memoriam

The General Counsel and Secretary of the Senate read the names of the members of the University Community whose deaths were reported since the Senate Meeting of October 2009. After the reading of the names, the Senate observed a moment of silence. The list of names is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Sexton referred to the memorandum that was circulated to each Senator and is attached to these minutes as Exhibit B outlining some of the individual and collective achievements at the University since the Senate’s last meeting.

Update on the Class of 2014

Dr. Sexton introduced Vice Chancellor of NYU-Abu Dhabi Al Bloom to report on NYU-Abu Dhabi’s first entering class (the Class of 2014) and the opening of NYU-Abu Dhabi. Dr. Bloom advised that the NYU Abu Dhabi faculty arrived at the downtown campus by August 31 and students arrived September 7. He noted that the faculty-to-student ratio currently is 1-to-8. He described NYU Abu Dhabi's welcome week, Marhaba Week. The first day included a welcome by the admissions office and dean of students, a Ramadan celebration in which students broke the daily fast in a traditional iftar dinner, and a seminar on the ideals of cosmopolitanism given by Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Cyrus Patel and Assistant Professor of Philosophy Matthew Silverstein. Other activities during Marhaba Week included a festival of Arabic culture, orientation sessions about academic programs and policies, a primer on Arabic culture, and a trip to Dubai.
Dr. Sexton introduced Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Thomas Ellett to report on the entering class at the Washington Square Campus and Freshman Move-In Day. Mr. Ellett advised that approximately 800 hundred students volunteered to help on Freshman Move-In Day, approximately 7,000 parents and students were welcomed at either breakfast or lunch at the Kimmel Center for University Life, and 300 commuter students met with commuter assistants. He reported that the Office of Community Affairs received no complaints from members of the community related to Move-In Day.

Mr. Ellett noted that NYU housing was made available to all students, including those who had left NYU housing, now sought to return and therefore were not guaranteed housing, and, as a result, we were over-subscribed. He explained that to accommodate all students, approximately 87 upper-class students were placed in temporary housing in two area hotels and a Medical School residence hall, made available to the University due to the overflow. He related that approximately 11 students remain in temporary housing and all will be placed in regular NYU housing within the next two weeks.

Mr. Ellett reported briefly on the housing of NYU-POLY students, stating that one quarter of students live in NYU-POLY housing and the remainder commute or have non-university housing.

Dr. Sexton introduced Vice President for Enrollment Randall Deike to present on NYU Abu Dhabi, Washington Square, and NYU-POLY admissions and enrollment. Mr. Deike advised that NYU Abu Dhabi received approximately 9,000 applications, the admission rate was 2.1%, 188 students were admitted with a yield rate of 80%, and the members of the Class of 2014 at NYU Abu Dhabi hail from 39 countries, speak 49 different languages, and have extremely high SAT scores.

With respect to Washington Square, he reported that: we received approximately 37,000 applications for the Class of 2014, a one percent increase over the previous year; the acceptance rate is estimated to be 30.6%, one percent higher than last year, though the data is still being finalized as of the date of this meeting; the yield rate was 31.6%, one percentage point lower than last year; approximately 4,785 freshmen enrolled at Washington Square; and 14% of Washington Square freshmen are international students, a 2% increase. Dr. Sexton commented that he believes the number of international students will continue to increase in the future because of increasing attention on the University around the world. Mr. Deike also related that 45.4% of freshmen are students of color, a 2% increase from last year; and women constitute 60.2% of total students, a 3.4% increase. Dr. Sexton observed that the female-male ratio at NYU-Abu Dhabi is the reverse, with a student body that is about
40% women and 60% men. Mr. Deike noted that the Class of 2014’s SAT scores are 10 points higher than the previous class and students come from more than 50 countries, 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Deike then spoke about transfer students, advising that approximately 5,500 applications were received, with an acceptance rate of 30.2% and a yield rate of 51.3%, bringing the total number of transfer students to approximately 852, all numbers similar to last year.

Finally, Mr. Deike reported on enrollment trends at NYU-POLY, observing that NYU-POLY has had a great deal of success in its changing academic profile, including an impressive 118 point increase in average SATs over four years, while still maintaining ethnic and economic diversity. Dr. Sexton noted that 30% of students at NYU-POLY come from families with incomes less than $25,000 annually and that NYU-POLY graduates average a starting salary of $60,000 annually. Mr. Deike advised that NYU-POLY was ranked fourth by U.S. News and World Report in the category of “Most Diverse Campus” and fourth by payscale.com for starting and mid-career salaries for engineering schools. He related that 50% of freshmen are eligible for Pell grants, 61.5% are students of color, 10.7% are international, 68.2% are from New York, 80% are men and 20% are women.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Assignments

Vice President of the Senate Anita Dwyer reported that a meeting of the Executive Committee was held on September 2, 2010, at which all committee assignments were approved. The list of Committee assignments was included in the mailing and is attached to these minutes as Exhibit C.

University Senate Schedule

Ms. Dwyer moved that the 2011-2012 Senate meeting schedule, which was included in the mailing, be adopted. Upon motion duly made, the schedule, attached to these minutes as Exhibit D, was approved unanimously.
REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report was submitted by the Academic Affairs Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Committee Chair Malaika Neri reported that the Committee met on September 29, 2010, where it primarily discussed University environmental issues, an area of focus for the Committee last year. She advised that the Committee talked about how it could be most helpful in coordinating environmental issues and improving the University’s environmental footprint; and the Committee hopes to help coordinate a sustainability committee and is considering working with each school regarding its environmental efforts.

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Michael Alfano reported that the first meeting of the Financial Affairs Committee will take place immediately following the University Senate meeting in the Kimmel Center for University Life, Room 909. Dr. Alfano also introduced Senior Vice President for Finance and Budget Martin Dorph, advising that Mr. Dorph will be taking a more active role in the Financial Affairs Committee this year.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Commencement Update

Committee Chair Arthur Tannenbaum introduced Senior Vice President for University Relations and Public Affairs Lynne Brown to discuss 2011 Commencement and the renovations to Washington Square Park. Dr. Brown advised that the Senate has jurisdiction to decide the date and location of Commencement and the Public Affairs Committee has recommended moving the date of Commencement from Thursday, May 19, to Wednesday, May 18, and holding Commencement in Yankee Stadium. She spoke to several factors bearing on Commencement: (1) the increasing number of graduating students and the increasing percentage of graduating students wishing to participate in All-University Commencement, even without regard to NYU-POLY
graduates, who will be joining in the All-University Commencement in the next few years; (2) the fact that the renovations in Washington Square Park are not completed, making it risky to consider the Park for 2011 graduation, and that the Park as renovated will effectively have seating capacity (given the sight lines) for approximately 14,000, a substantial reduction from the approximately 19,000 capacity pre-renovation; and (3) only Yankee Stadium and Mets' Citifield are large enough venues for Commencement, providing stadium capacity of 50,000, which allows four tickets to be given per student (as opposed to the two tickets available to students in 2007 when All-University Commencement was last held in Washington Square Park), and Citifield is not available on May 18 or 19.

She related that Yankee Stadium is available, but to accommodate the Yankees' set-up and breakdown needs, the team has asked that NYU hold 2011 Commencement on Wednesday, May 18, rather than Thursday, May 19. Dr. Brown noted that Grad Alley would then be held on Tuesday, May 17. She recommended that in the future, when notifying parents about Commencement, we advise that the All-University Commencement could be the Wednesday or Thursday of Commencement Week.

Dr. Brown also suggested that we consider other uses for Washington Square Park when the renovations are completed. She noted that the Park could accommodate the College of Arts and Sciences commencement and other schools' commencement ceremonies; and we might consider holding certain Welcome Week activities in the Park. She commented that all Park use is subject to approval by the New York City Parks Department and the Greenwich Village Community Board.

In response to questions, Dr. Brown and Senior Director of University Events Gregory Albanis advised as follows: about 150 faculty have historically participated in the Procession at Commencement; NYU looked at numerous potential venues including Central Park, Prospect Park and various baseball parks in the City but none was viable; and Phase 2 of the renovation of Washington Square Park should be complete in 2011, but there is an anticipated Phase 3 involving renovation of Park buildings.

Professor Tannenbaum read and asked the Senate to pass the Commencement Resolution that was circulated to each Senator prior to this meeting and present at each Senator’s place. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Senate unanimously passed the Resolution, changing the date of 2011 Commencement from Thursday, May 19, 2011 to Wednesday, May 18, 2011.
COUNCIL REPORTS

Administrative Management Council

Ms. Dwyer reported that the Council hosted a breakfast for new officers, representatives, alternate representatives, senators, and alternate senators on October 5, 2010. She advised that Associate Vice President for Global Compensation and Benefits and Deputy of Human Resources Linda Woodruff gave a presentation on Benefits Open Enrollment, scheduled to take place from October 11 to November 11, 2010, and discussed changes in benefits for all Council constituents. She related that the Council is organizing a united team of administrators, faculty, staff, and students to participate in the American Cancer Society’s “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk on October 17, 2010.

Deans Council

Dean Bertolami reported that the last meeting of the Dean’s Council was on August 25, 2010, at which the deans began discussion of the agenda to be finalized at the next meeting. He noted that the meeting scheduled for September 15 has been rescheduled for October 13. He advised that the tone at the end of last year was one of looking forward to working with other councils and being available for dialogue at different levels.

Student Senators Council

Ms. Sylvester announced that the year has gotten off to a great start. She reported that at the end of the first week of school, the Student Senators Council (SSC), consisting of 15 school and seven at-large student senators, and the University Committee on Student Life (UCSL), consisting of all student senators and school presidents, hosted an orientation for both groups. She advised that the first SSC meeting was held two weeks ago to discuss committee rules and committees have started to meet. Goals for the SSC this year include raising awareness about how student government works at the University and school levels. The SSC’s new website also is up and running, and includes an issues tab containing issues that have been brought and actions that have been taken. The SSC is looking for ways to incorporate NYU-POLY students into the University’s student government, though NYU-POLY is not an official NYU school, and NYU-POLY already has its own student government. Regarding NYU Abu Dhabi, the SSC is helping to develop a student government and government services at that portal site. The SSC also is in the process of working with Columbia University, Fordham University, Yeshiva
University, and Manhattan College to develop an NYC student government alliance as a forum for representatives from student governments across the City to meet on student-wide issues, and to learn and make improvements in NYU’s student government.

Faculty Senators Council

Professor Schacht announced that the Faculty Senators Council (FSC) is utilizing components of a survey sent to faculty last year. Responses to the survey were made up of an equal number of tenured and non-tenure track full-time faculty and results are providing insight on issues the Council will discuss this year related to a divide between tenured and non-tenure track full-time faculty, an issue the FSC is seeking to address. The survey also is serving as a template for committee discussions and committees have been formed. Prior to this meeting, the FSC co-sponsored a New Faculty Luncheon with The Office of Faculty Resources. Finally, the FSC met prior to this meeting to discuss faculty benefits and sent a resolution to the administration, which promptly responded with solutions to help the faculty.

PRESIDENT’S QUESTION TIME

In the interest of time, Dr. Sexton advised he will hold questions until the next Senate meeting, but gave a few “headlines” from the questions received. Two of the submitted questions inquired about the 2031 approval process and community relations issues involving space needs. He noted that Dr. Brown and Vice President for Government Affairs and Community Engagement Alicia Hurley have been working diligently on this issue, and the University officially filed an application for approval of the proposed fourth tower on the Silver Towers site with the New York City Landmarks Department, with the approval process expected to take about 15 months. Dr. Brown commented that the Faculty Senators Council will hold a faculty forum on the 2031 plan and Dr. Brown offered to Ms. Sylvester a similar forum for students to review the 2031 plans. Dr. Brown also invited all Senators to the newly renovated event space at 528 LaGuardia Street immediately following the Senate meeting for a reception and an exhibit featuring the 2031 plans.

Dr. Sexton also briefly addressed a question regarding the University’s financial outlook. He thanked the deans and Dr. Alfano for the sacrifices made during the reengineering process. He advised that finances are stable and no one need worry, but this is a time for compression of resources. He explained the long-term strategy as assuring that NYU provides a value proposition of being one of the greatest
universities in the world. Dr. Sexton stated that he will elaborate further on this important topic at the next Senate meeting.

Regarding the problem of NYU being unable to expend funds from endowments that are “underwater” (i.e., have a current value less than the initial amounts contributed), Dr. Sexton thanked New York State Assemblyman Jonathan Bing who shepherded the New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (NYPMIFA) through the New York State legislature. Dr. Sexton advised that the Act was signed by the Governor on September 17, 2010 and addresses the problem of underwater endowments.

Dr. Sexton briefly addressed a final question asking if the University has started to see an increase in revenue that could be utilized for financial aid. He advised that the study-away sites are all self-supporting and plans are in place at each site to support all programs so they are not a drain on financial aid and other needs. With respect to NYU Abu Dhabi, he spoke of the important partnership with the United Arab Emirates, which provides resources that allow for NYU's expansion in Abu Dhabi and of certain joint opportunities, such as research laboratories, co-located there and in New York. He noted that the financial aid system available to students at NYU Abu Dhabi is a model for what it should be at all portal sites.

Dr. Sexton concluded the meeting with remarks about the challenging times facing higher education in general and the enormous struggles that lie ahead in keeping resources channeled to this sector. He expressed concern over what he sees as the widespread dilution and devaluation of higher education degrees. Dr. Sexton said that the key is continuing to maintain and invest in the University's quality and to refine and articulate the University's value proposition.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Brier
Secretary