Minutes
Meeting of a Stated Meeting of the
Senate of New York University
December 2, 2010

A stated meeting of the Senate of New York University was held on Thursday, December 2, 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: Levon Capan, Sylvain Cappell, Raphael David, Anne Deneys-Tunney (for Nava Rubin), James Fernandez, Floyd Hammack, Carol Hutchins, Kose John, Mary Ann Jones, Rebecca Karl, Anthony Kovner, Carl Lebowitz, Marie Monaco, Terence Moran, Molly Nolan, Laurin Raiken, Robert Schacht (Chair), Eric Simon, Nicholas Tanis (for Paul Thompson), Arthur Tannenbaum (for Nicholas Economides), Nancy Van Devanter, Anthony Vernillo, Paul Wachtel and Daniel Zwanziger.


Deans Council Members Present: Jess Benhabib, Charles Bertolami (Chair), Mary Brabeck, Joanne Hvala (for Peter Blair Henry), Robert Lapiner, Tyra Liebmann (for Ellen Schall), Louis Scheeder (for Mary Schmidt Campbell), Mal Semple, Otto Sonntag (for Matthew Santirocco), Lynn Videka and Susanne Wofford.

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

University Administration Members Present: Michael Alfano, Robert Berne, Bonnie Brier, Martin Dorph and David McLaughlin.
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Review and Approval of the Minutes of the November 4, 2010 Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the November 4, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

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

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Dorph reported that the Financial Affairs Committee met last month and reviewed the current year’s budget. The Committee will meet today after the Senate meeting.

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Professor Hammack reported that the Committee has met twice since the last Senate meeting. The Committee anticipates more discussion of the calendar initiative for the 2012-2013 academic year that was outlined in the minutes of the November 4 Senate meeting. The proposal is to begin classes on the Wednesday before Labor Day, which would reduce Welcome Week, the time between Freshman Move-In Day, and the beginning of classes to a shorter period of time than it is now (nine days). This change also would allow for a two-day Fall Break (October 15 and 16, 2012), Thanksgiving Break to begin on Wednesday, and a Reading Day between the last day of classes and the beginning of exams, as well as an earlier start to exams (December 14, 2012). The Committee plans to present a motion to the Senate at the February 3, 2011 meeting. Professor Hammack encouraged all Senators to voice any concerns they may have about the change in the calendar to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Some concerns that have been raised by Senators and their constituents if the university were to start classes before Labor Day include: possible child care conflicts for students and faculty who have children in public school programs that do not begin until after Labor Day; need to adjust leasing contracts to be signed earlier;
increased living expenses for students who live off campus; reduced time for students who are not from the area in orientating themselves to the community and the City; elimination of one week of vacation in August for faculty; need for departments to adjust to the new calendar when scheduling auditions and assessments; and possible inconveniences for international students.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE**

Ms. Neri reported that the Committee met last week to discuss sustainability and encouraged all Senators to focus on sustainability with constituents, and in departments and schools. The Committee found that there is a lack of awareness about current sustainability efforts, and it recommends that a sustainability report be given at the February meeting.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of incorporating representation from the School of Nursing into the Senate and will work to do so once the School of Nursing establishes a consistent presence on the University Committee on Student Life (UCSL). Other items discussed were how to increase communication with constituents by blogging and other methods; and modifying the Bylaws to eliminate the requirement of amending the Bylaws every four years.

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report was submitted by the Public Affairs Committee.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Administrative Management Council**

Ms. Dwyer reported that the AMC Benefits Committee is working on budget recommendations for the 2011-12 year and met with Kathryn Zukof, Senior Director of the Office of Talent, Learning & Organizational Development, to discuss and ask for clarification on changes to recent vacation carry-over policies.

The AMC’s Thanksgiving Food Drive collected 700 food items to benefit the St. Francis Xavier Mission and the AMC’s Annual Toy drive will run from December 6 – 16. Donated toys will benefit the children of the Ninth Precinct and Herbert G. Birch
Early Childhood Center, and will be distributed at the Ninth Precinct Annual Holiday Party on December 18, 2010. More information is available on the AMC website.

**Deans Council**

Dean Bertolami reported that the Deans Council met on November 17 and heard from Mary Signor, Executive Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, and Craig Jolley, Deputy Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, who spoke about services and resources available in the Office of Equal Opportunity. Dean Mary Brabeck introduced the Advisor Track software, which tracks advising sessions, and facilitates the new advisor role when there is a transition in advisors.

**Faculty Senators Council**

Professor Schacht reported that the final report of the FSC survey of all faculty, except School of Medicine faculty, was sent on November 22, 2010. The purpose of the survey was to determine the faculty's experience and level of satisfaction with benefits, housing, tenure, and faculty governance, and to get ideas and recommendations about issues of concern to all faculty. In addition, Professor Schacht related that the FSC fall newsletter will be sent to all faculty by the end of the fall semester. The final report of the FSC survey and the FSC fall newsletter are available on the FSC website.

Following two 2031 Faculty Forums, the FSC is forming a committee that will concentrate on educating faculty about, and seeking their support for, the 2031 Plan. The FSC passed a resolution that urges the School of Medicine to cease seeking to renegotiate or reduce the salary of tenured faculty in the absence of promulgating a procedure in accordance with tenure guidelines in the Faculty Handbook that would apply only prospectively to faculty tenured after the date of promulgation. Finally, the FSC is preparing for the next Faculty Reception.

**Student Senators Council**

Ms. Sylvester reported that the SSC discussed how the proposed calendar changes would affect the student body and drafted budget recommendations to present to the Financial Affairs Committee today. Last month, the SSC invited representatives from the administration and the adjunct professors union, United Auto Workers Local 7902, to speak about the current negotiations. The SSC remains concerned about negotiations and how they will affect students.
On November 30, the SSC hosted a Town Hall with President Sexton and the SSC Executive Board held a video conference with the Student Advisory Council on Student Government at NYU Abu Dhabi. The SSC shared the structure of student government at the Washington Square Campus and offered suggestions about how to structure student government in Abu Dhabi. The SSC hopes the NYU Abu Dhabi student government will soon be involved in Washington Square student government activities.

PRESIDENT'S QUESTION TIME

The Administrative Management Council submitted a question regarding the number of applications anticipated for the Class that will enter in 2011 and whether there are any potential positive or negative factors that may influence the University's presence in the higher education marketplace.

Dr. Sexton related that preliminary estimates put undergraduate applications about 2% ahead of last year, with applicants that are equally strong as recent applicant pools. Early Decision I applicants are of the same high quality as last year and acceptance letters are about to be sent out. The addition of a second Early Decision process is designed to give students more time to apply while still providing them an early response and those letters will be sent to applicants in January. Dr. Sexton advised that NYU does not expect to significantly increase the total number of Early Decision acceptances.

Dr. Sexton expressed his concerns about national initiatives that would devalue degrees to meet political goals. He focused in particular on the impact of for-profit colleges and universities, which utilize increasingly limited government assistance, but have low graduation rates.

The President noted the financial challenges faced by the University, which has a limited endowment on a per student basis relative to our peer institutions. He spoke to compensating advantages, however, including the University's great educational and attitudinal endowment, and a structural endowment in the Global Network University, which attracts talent. He related that these factors are critical in helping us recruit the best faculty. He referenced the recruitment of a world-class neural scientist from Stanford who will lead NYU's Center for Neural Science, which was made possible by a recent $100 million gift to establish the NYU Neuroscience Institute as well as by the University's positioning nationally and internationally.

After opening the floor to questions, Dr. Sexton responded to a question about the
status of negotiations with the adjunct professors union. Dr. Sexton related that in June the University made a generous offer that included a six-year contract with guaranteed raises each year. He advised that the union has failed to seriously consider that offer, but has now agreed to the involvement of a union-nominated mediator that the University has agreed to pay for. The current contract has been extended until February 1, 2011. Another mediated session is scheduled for December 9, 2010.

In response to another question regarding the availability of financial aid for applicants and students, Dr. Sexton acknowledged that we have inadequate financial aid and that this is a serious issue for the University. He noted that NYU’s Pell Grant-eligible students continue to increase, with a current rate at almost 20%. He spoke to the efforts the University has made to raise funds for financial aid and the University’s increased budgetary commitment of funds for this purpose. But he also advised that the University remains tuition-dependent and has competing priorities, including faculty recruitment, lowering the faculty-to-student ratio, and deferred maintenance.

Another Senator inquired about contracts and pay scales for adjunct professors at other universities, and Dr. Sexton related that NYU’s is the best contract of any University that he knows of and that the adjunct professor pay scale is higher than what the union accepted last year from the New School.

One Senator expressed his concern about the proposed changes to the academic calendar, particularly as it affects faculty with children whose schools do not start until after Labor Day, which may necessitate the need for special child care arrangements.

Dr. Sexton wished everyone a pleasant holiday. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Brier
Secretary
It is my pleasure to share with you recent news and notes from across the university community.

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

As you may have heard, NYU announced it will begin work on its Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) application seeking approvals to build on the blocks near Washington Square Park that are already owned by the university. The University is withdrawing its application for a fourth tower in the landmarked section of the southern superblock; its ULURP application will instead include a building on the site currently occupied by the Morton Williams supermarket.

We are delighted that former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Gordon Brown will be on campus, Tuesday, December 14, to take part in a conversation on international finance and political issues at 1:30 PM in Tishman Auditorium, Vanderbilt Hall, 40 Washington Square South. His visit to New York, following his participation in late November in a major conference on the US midterm elections held at La Pietra in Florence, marks Mr. Brown’s official affiliation with NYU as the inaugural Distinguished Global Leader in Residence. In this role, he will, over the course of this year and into the next academic year, engage with the NYU community—both faculty and students—in seminars and public events in New York as well as Abu Dhabi and our other study away sites.

NYU continues its impressive run as one of the top American universities in both attracting international students and in numbers of students who study abroad, according to the annual “Open Doors” report released by the Institute of International Education. For the eighth consecutive year, NYU was the top institution in students who study overseas, with 3,524. NYU attracted the third-highest number of students from abroad (7,276 in 2009-10, up from 6,761 the previous year), behind the University of Southern California and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. New York City is the top host city in the country.

**FACULTY HONORS**

David Amodio, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Center for Neural Science, has been awarded a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE Awards are the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their careers and are conferred annually at the White House based on recommendations from federal agencies. Professor Amodio, whose research examines the cognitive and neural mechanisms through which people regulate their social behavior, was nominated by the National Science Foundation.
The New York Academy of Sciences has selected four NYU researchers for its 2010 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists. Evgeny Nudler, the Julie Wilson Anderson Professor of Biochemistry at the Langone Medical Center, was among the faculty awardees and received $25,000 in unrestricted funding. Daniela Schiller, a former post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Psychology and Center for Neural Science and currently an assistant professor of psychiatry and neuroscience at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, received a post-doctoral award, which includes $15,000 in unrestricted funding. Neal Weiner, associate professor in the Department of Physics, and Elza Erkip, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at NYU-Poly, were both finalists for the faculty award and each received $10,000 in unrestricted funding.

The American Historical Association has awarded Karl Appuhn, associate professor in the Department of History, its 2010 Herbert Baxter Adams Prize, given annually to the best first book by a young scholar in the field of European History. Professor Appuhn was honored for his account of Venice’s efforts to manage its natural resources, *A Forest on the Sea: Environmental Expertise in Renaissance Venice*.

Myles Jackson, the Dibner Family Professor of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at NYU-Poly and a professor of the history of science at the Gallatin School for Individualized Study, has been awarded the Humboldt Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Professor Jackson will spend next summer at the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Mathematics in Kaiserslautern, Germany, where he will study the application of mathematical models to skilled labor practices. The Humboldt Fellowship is given to scholars whose work has had a significant impact on their discipline and who are expected to continue producing cutting-edge achievements in the future.

Two faculty members have been named to Business Insider’s list, “Silicon Alley 100: New York’s Coolest Tech People in 2010.” Red Burns, founder of the Interactive Technology Program at the Tisch School of the Arts, was cited for her influential support and training of students who have gone on to have big success in the city’s tech industry. Evan Korth, clinical associate professor in the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, was named for his role in founding Hack.NY.org, a non-profit that connects New York City students with local startups and fosters community among future tech leaders.

**ALUMNI HONORS**

Poets Matt Donovan (GSAS ’03) and LB Thompson (GSAS ’00), who both earned the M.F.A. from the Creative Writing Program, were among the ten recipients of the 2010 Whiting Writers’ Awards. Granted by the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation, the awards honor writers of exceptional talent and promise early in their careers and carry a cash prize of $50,000.

**STUDENT HONORS**

The men’s soccer team made NYU history in early November, capturing the University Athletic Association Championship for the first time with a 1-0 win over Brandeis University. The Violets also became the first team in UAA history to go all seven UAA games without allowing a goal, and tied the NYU record for total shutouts in a season, with 12.
victory earned the team a place in the NCAA Tournament, and although the Violets were eliminated in a tough first-round loss, we are deeply proud of their terrific season!

**Ferris Jahr**, a graduate student in the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, has received the Society for Neuroscience’s Science Journalism Award. The award encourages the pursuit of a career in science or medical journalism. Ferris is enrolled in the Carter Institute’s Science, Health, and Environmental Reporting Program.

**GRANTS**

The College of Nursing has been awarded a five-year, $2.9 million Federal Health Resources and Administration grant to fund its Mobile Health Van Program. The community outreach program, called “Feeling Good in Your Neighborhood,” offers primary health care services to underserved and recent immigrant adolescents in four Brooklyn schools. The new, fully equipped van includes two exam rooms and a reception area and is staffed by nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and other professionals. **Judith Haber, associate dean of graduate programs**, is the project’s Principal Investigator.

Jacques Lezra, professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature, and Emily Apter, professor of French and Comparative Literature, have won a Dissertation Seminar Grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. With the $500,000 grant, Professor Lezra and Professor Apter will conduct a graduate humanities seminar at NYU this summer entitled, “The Problem of Translation: Philosophical, Cultural, Literary, Genealogical.”