Minutes of a Stated Meeting of the
Senate of New York University
November 3, 2011

A stated meeting of the Senate of New York University was held on Thursday, November 3, 2011, 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: Mark Adelman, Awam Amkpa, Sylvain Cappell, Jennifer Carpenter, Pamela Cowin, Nicholas Economides, James Fernandez, Ricki Goldman, Floyd Hammack, Josephine Hendin (For James Uleman), Carol Hutchins, Warren Jelinek, Mary Ann Jones, Carl Liebowitz, Wen Ling, Ted Magder (Chair), Marie Monaco, Molly Nolan, Laurin Raiken, Carol Reiss, Victor Rodwin, Robert Schacht, Eric Simon, Carol Sternhell, Arthur Tannenbaum, Nancy Van Devanter, Anthony Vernillo and Daniel Zwanziger.

Student Senators Council Members Present: John F. Boyd, Tai Cooper, Albert Cotugno (Chair), Whitney Coulson, Mason Dettloff (for Honda Wang), Ozen Nergis Dolcerocca, Gregory Dussaq, Mariam Ehrari, Yvonne Feiger, Anderson Heinz, Nara Kasbergen, Sabira Lakhani, Jameson Lee, Nathan Cain, Rhoen Pruesse-Adams, Rocco Puno, Joseph Solomita, Rick Stern, Malina Webb and May Zhan.

Deans Council Members Present: Charles Bertolami, Mary Brabeck, Robert Cameron (for Mary Schmidt Campbell), Thomas Carew, Susan Greenbaum (for Geeta Menon), Joanne Hvala (for Peter Blair Henry), Tyra Liebmann (for Ellen Schall), Carol Mandel, Mal Semple, Gabrielle Starr, Lynn Videka and Susanne Wofford.

Administrative Management Council Members Present: Katherine Drummond, Anita Dwyer, Bart Grachan (for David Vintinner), Marguerite Sharkey, and Michael Summers.

University Administration Members Present: Robert Berne, Bonnie Brier, Martin Dorph and Ron Robin (for David McLaughlin).
Review and Approval of the Minutes of the October 6, 2011 Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

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.

Facilities Update

Dr. Sexton introduced Alison Leary, Senior Vice President for Operations, to report on University Capital Projects. Ms. Leary reported that, currently, there are approximately 180 open and active construction projects, valued at more than $500 million, 65% of which are projects that support academics by renovating and adding classroom and laboratory space.

Ms. Leary’s presentation highlighted projects in progress or recently completed, including: School of Law’s Wilf Hall and Provincetown Playhouse, 133 MacDougal Street (academic research offices, theater); Stern School of Business, 40 West 4th Street (classrooms, lounge areas, auditorium); School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS), 7 East 12th Street (classrooms, faculty and administrative offices); Academic Resource Center, 18 Washington Place, East Building (academic support services, Argo Tea); Bobst Library, 70 Washington Square South (seminar rooms, research rooms, Library administrative offices, space improvements); Center for Academic and Spiritual Life, 58 Washington Square South (colloquium, multipurpose, music, classrooms and lecture hall); NYU in Washington, D.C., 1307 L Street, NW, Washington, DC (student residences, seminar rooms, lecture hall, faculty and administrative offices); College of Arts and Science, 12-16 Waverly Place (biology research labs, general purpose classrooms); College of Arts and Science, 100 Washington Square East (research lab); College of Dentistry, Nursing and Bio-engineering, 433 1st Avenue (Dentistry, Nursing and Bio-Engineering); Tisch School of the Arts, 715-721 Broadway (acting and movement studios, performance spaces); Steinhardt, 75 Third Avenue (Steinhardt Jazz program); 726 Broadway (retail, café); Cogeneration Plant, Mercer Street between West 3rd and West 4th Streets; and other capital maintenance projects, faculty apartment conversions and turnover projects, fire safety and infrastructure improvements in student residence halls, and laboratory renovations at select locations.
NYU Innovation Venture Fund

Dr. Sexton introduced Frank Rimalovski, Managing Director of the NYU Innovation Venture Fund to report on the University's efforts to increase innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the University community. He described the Innovation Venture Fund, which was formed to be a catalyst for start-ups, research and technology, and to foster an entrepreneurial culture, at NYU. It provides funding, as well as templates for innovation, including mentoring and consulting. He noted that the NYU Entrepreneur Network was created as part of the Innovation Fund to encourage collaboration among student clubs and their leaders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs Committee

Senior Vice Provost Ron Robin reported that the Committee will meet today to discuss honorary degrees. This year, the Committee also plans to discuss the new policy on academic integrity.

Financial Affairs Committee

Mr. Dorph related that the Committee met last month and yesterday to review the University’s operating budget and spending related to information technology.

Committee on Organization and Governance

Associate General Counsel Leona Chamberlin reported that the Committee had its first meeting on October 18; and, at that meeting, the Committee discussed a letter from SSC Chair Albert Cotugno (who was unable to attend) raising concerns about Senate representation for students in the College of Nursing. The Committee will be seeking additional information and discussing the matter further.

Public Affairs Committee

Professor Tannenbaum read and asked the Senate to pass the Commencement Resolution that was circulated to each Senator prior to this meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Senate unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Public Affairs Committee, the 2012 All-University Commencement Exercises will take
place on Wednesday, May 16, 2012 in Yankee Stadium. Accordingly, Grad Alley will take place on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Administrative Management Council

Ms. Dwyer reported that at the AMC meeting on Tuesday, November 2, 2011, Roger Printup, University Registrar, presented an update on the Student Information System. She related that the AMC Benefits Committee met on October 18 and discussed salary recommendations for Code 100 employees and answered constituent questions regarding various health benefit issues.

She advised that approximately 475 employees, faculty, students and alumni participated in The American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, October 16 in Central Park. She announced that Team NYU ranked #1 in participants, up from #2 last year, and raised approximately $16,752, ranked #7, up from #11 last year.

Deans Council

Dean Bertolami reported that at the Committee meeting on October 19, the Deans Council discussed collaborative opportunities for graduate students, conversations about which will continue within individual schools. He advised that the Council also talked about fostering a greater sense of community among graduate students and how the pilot program Sakai 3.0, a platform for academic networking and collaboration, might facilitate this. He related that the Council briefly discussed how departments and schools can further engage the faculty in the Global Network University and it plans to continue these discussions at a future meeting.

Faculty Senators Council

Dr. Magder related that representation of non-tenure track faculty is a priority for the FSC Executive Committee and it plans to make a recommendation to SCOG by the end of this year. He advised that the FSC 2031 and Housing Committees are working together to address any negative impact of building projects near Silver Towers and Washington Square Village, and the 2031 Committee has met with Lynne Brown to discuss possible solutions.
Dr. Magder introduced his guest, Dr. Shamoon Zamir, Associate Professor of Literature and Visual Studies at NYU Abu Dhabi, who serves as the de facto chair of the NYUAD faculty council. Dr. Zamir presented at the last meeting of the FSC Global Network University (GNU) Committee where he discussed curriculum issues, as well as the challenges of faculty governance in Abu Dhabi, expressing a desire to work more closely with Washington Square.

Student Senators Council

Mr. Cotugno reported that the SSC will soon make a final decision as to whether or not to pursue a ban on Chick-Fil-A. He advised that the SSC launched its budget recommendations process, and, over the next month, will determine which student programs require additional resources. In making their determinations, he related that the SSC will directly survey the student body, obtain insight from student councils, and consult administrators in student affairs.

He announced that at the next UCSL meeting, the SSC will present a video made by the student government in Abu Dhabi. He reported that the SSC’s International Affairs Committee is working on the first summit for students of the Global Network University, which will use the University’s telecommunication resources to create a live conversation between students from all study-away and portal sites.

PRESIDENT’S QUESTION TIME

In response to the SSC’s question about upholding the University’s commitment to freedom of ideas on campuses located in countries with authoritarian governments, Dr. Sexton: expressed his pride in the creation of the Global Network University (GNU), which was created to prepare students for life in a complex, global society; noted that in the case of Abu Dhabi and Shanghai, NYU was approached to create a liberal arts college featuring American-style education; and expressed his hope that the GNU will continue to expand the educational experience of NYU students.

In response to the SSC’s question regarding whether or not NYU has a responsibility to investigate the associations of businesses housed on campus, Dr. Sexton cautioned against making political or condemning statements as a university. He encouraged dialogue so that all voices, especially minority voices, are heard, and related that as a representative of NYU he takes no position on issues such as Chick-Fil-A’s political and social associations.

In response to the AMC’s question regarding the relationship between Washington
Square and the portal campuses, Dr. Sexton deferred to Dr. Zamir. Dr. Zamir spoke to the complexities of developing the governance for the GNU, noting that the University is rethinking how to work with portal and study-away sites, especially regarding curriculum. He expressed his view that the GNU can make a significant difference and his personal commitment to seek to navigate the challenges involved in its success.

In response to the AMC’s question regarding the University’s endowment and the Merkin litigation, Dr. Sexton related that the endowment is invested conservatively, but continues to do well, with an 18% return last year; and the University has recovered approximately $14 million in the Merkin litigation, and expects to receive another $18 million shortly, and a total of $58-59 eventually (on an initial investment of $30 million in the early and mid-1990s).

In response to the FSC’s questions about wellness and sustainability, Dr. Sexton spoke to initiatives intended to encourage bicyclists and efforts to provide healthier food options. He advised that many of the University’s bike areas have been cleaned up, a new Bike Care Center has been installed behind Tisch Hall on West 3rd Street, many residence halls have bike racks, and the University has launched a bike sharing program. He discussed the increased healthy dining options for students, including in snack machines and dining halls.

In response to the FSC’s questions about perceived delays in the construction of the NYU Abu Dhabi campus on Saadiyat Island, Dr. Sexton advised that while some private residential projects and the museum projects are delayed on the island, they are not related to campus construction, which remains on track.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Brier
Secretary
UPDATES FROM PRESIDENT JOHN SEXTON
University Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 3, 2011

It is my pleasure to share with you these notes of interest from across the university community.

NEWS

Thomas Sargent, the W.R. Berkley Professor of Economics and Business with a joint appointment in the Economics Departments at the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Stern School of Business, has been awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Economics. Professor Sargent is one of the world’s leaders in modern economics, and his research is widely recognized as having revolutionized both the field of economics and the economic strategy adopted by successful capitalist countries over the past 20 years. A pioneer in the rational expectations school of macroeconomics, Professor Sargent shares the Nobel Prize with Princeton University’s Christopher Sims. He joins Stern professors Michael Spence and Robert Engle as current faculty who are Nobel Laureates in Economics.

In response to New York City’s call for proposals for new applied science campuses – as the Senate heard from Senior Vice Provost Paul Horn last month – NYU has now submitted its proposal for the Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP), an academic and research center that will address the needs of cities. In establishing CUSP, NYU will work with a consortium of world-class partners including NYU-Poly, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Toronto, City University of New York (CUNY), University of Warwick, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, as well as industry leaders such as IBM, Cisco, and Siemens. A site in downtown Brooklyn (at 370 Jay Street, adjacent to NYU-Poly) has been identified as the preferred location for CUSP. The City will now review the submissions and announce their findings by early next year.

The School of Continuing and Professional Studies will celebrate the opening of its new home, the renovated 7 East 12th Street building, with a ribbon cutting on November 21st. The move to the new facility marks a major milestone for SCPS, which will have its programs brought together under one roof for the first time. The renovations include a dramatic glass façade, a grand elliptical staircase in an atrium-like lobby, and state-of-the-art classrooms and conference rooms.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand was on campus on October 17th to host her first annual “Women’s Economic Empowerment Summit” aimed at examining the economic challenges women face and inspiring new economic leaders. The half-day event featured a keynote discussion with Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama, and WABC news anchor Diana Williams, as well as a panel discussion including Senator Gillibrand, Today Show co-host Savannah Guthrie, home and food expert Sandra Lee, green economy pioneer Majora Carter (GSAS ‘97), and personal finance expert Carmen Wong Ulrich.

The 2011 NYU Community Fund-United Way Combined Campaign is underway! Now in its 29th year, the fund, supported entirely by NYU employees, provides financial support to local nonprofit community organizations involved with the arts, the elderly, the homeless, and children and youth. Last year, NYU employees donated more than $120,000 to the campaign. To make your donation or to learn more about this signature university program, visit www.nyu.edu/community.fund.
ADDITIONAL HONORS

Professor S.R. Srinivasa Varadhan was presented with the National Medal of Science by President Barack Obama at a special White House ceremony in late October. Professor Varadhan, who is the Frank Jay Gould Professor of Science and professor of mathematics at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, was joined by Provost David McLaughlin at the ceremony. The medal, which was presented to seven recipients this year, is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers.

Stephen Cohen, professor in the Department of Russian and Slavic Studies, has been awarded the 2011 Liberty Prize in recognition of his contributions to developing cultural ties between the United States and Russia. Professor Cohen’s research focuses on Russian politics and history since 1917, U.S.-Soviet/Russian relations, and American media coverage of the Soviet Union. The Liberty Prize, sponsored by the Washington-based organization Russia House, the publishing house Kontinent, and the American University in Moscow, recognizes people who have made an outstanding contribution to Russian-American culture.

Diane Yu, Chief of Staff and Deputy to the President, has been elected Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of Oberlin College. An alumnna of Oberlin, she has served on the Board since 2006. Among her many roles at NYU, Diane serves as Executive Director of the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program and teaches a freshman honors seminar course in the College of Arts and Science each year.

John Conklin, adjunct teacher in the Department of Design for Stage & Film at the Tisch School of the Arts, has received a 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Opera Honors. He is one of four recipients of this year’s Opera Honors, the highest award the United States bestows in opera. One of the principal figures in American stage design, Conklin’s set and costume designs are seen in opera houses, theaters, and ballet companies around the world.

GRANTS

Okhee Lee, professor of childhood education at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for $4.5 million in support of the project, “Promoting Science among English Language Learners Scale-Up.” The study will develop curricula and teacher professional development to improve science achievement for students, especially English language learners, in urban and rural elementary schools.

Faculty in the Steinhardt School’s Department of Applied Psychology received major grants from the Administration for Children and Families in support of research on early childhood “head start” programs. Clancy Blair and Cybele Raver were awarded about $2 million to implement and evaluate an evidence-based parenting intervention for children and families facing high levels of adversity with partnering Early Head Start grantees in New York City, and Pamela Morris and Larry Aber were awarded a $1.2 million grant to examine how features of Head Start centers impact key child outcomes in cognitive functioning, social-emotional skills, and health.