SUMMARY OF THE FACULTY SENATORS COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2010

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- Presentation by special guest President John Sexton
  - Senator Kovner inquired on the President’s views on the Faculty Senators Council’s role in shared governance at the university. Sexton stated the FSC is a formal input device for the faculty. He remarked on the importance of ‘notice and comment’ on certain matters, developing formal committees, and trusted delegation. He stated the administration takes all input into account and makes a decision based on the factors and risks involved.
  - Senator Karl asked Sexton to elaborate on the adjunct contract negotiations. She distributed a document Senator Nolan and she created comparing the current New School adjunct contract and the current NYU adjunct contract. She noted the seeming contradiction between this document and Sexton’s statement at the University Senate meeting regarding the NYU contract being better than the New School’s contract. Sexton explained he was speaking about the financial piece of the offer being the best pay package. Sexton indicated that he had not heard of the union proposing an agreement at NYU based on the economic terms of the New School agreement.
  - Alternate Senator Tannenbaum stated many people feel that the Council is not invited, or not invited early enough, into the conversations on many topics that affect faculty. In addition, when representatives from the FSC do serve on task forces they must follow a code of silence. Sexton replied that he meets with the FSC Executive Committee (EC) several times per semester. He noted in some cases deliberative privilege is necessary. This includes examples such as a Dean’s search, early negotiations concerning new campuses/partnerships, projects involving donations, etc. which can not be openly advertised to all faculty during certain stages.
  - Senator Harrington asked about Sexton’s understanding of the FSC’s advisory role. Sexton responded the voice of the FSC is the formal voice of the faculty and receives extraordinary weight. It is not the only channel but it is the first group consulted.
  - Senator Jones asked about deliberative privilege. She mentioned that during the last round in the benefit change taskforces, FSC representatives on the committees were not able to bring to the FSC issues in the final report until that report went to the public at large. Sexton stated he believes the FSC should have received a pre-distribution of the report and a window for notice and comment before the report was sent to the public at large.
  - Senator Monaco, from the School of Medicine, commented on recommendations by the FSC that are not implemented by the administration. She stated that many feel in the past few years, faculty’s advice has not been taken unless it directly coincides with the administration’s plan. Sexton stated, in the debate at the SOM, the FSC was very involved and produced recommendations. Senator Cappell stated the FSC recommended the medical school not use purely financial information or criteria to measure faculty productivity. The FSC also asked for enhanced retirement offers. Sexton stated the key strategic pieces of advice from the FSC were taken.
  - Sexton commented further on the issue concerning a small number of faculty members who have not raised external funding to support their salaries in the last 10 years may have their salaries reduced if other opportunities are not pursued (teaching, etc.) or they have the opportunity to retire with three years salary. Senator Monaco replied that reduction could go down to zero. Senator Simon commented the issue was how it was handled, rather than the actual outcome. Senator Bogart agreed the major problem was not what was done; but the way it was done.

- Spring Faculty Reception
  - The Spring Faculty Reception takes on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at The Torch Club, 18 Waverly Place. Senators were asked to encourage their school’s faculty members to attend.

- Faculty Family Day
  - Faculty Family Day takes place Sunday, February 13, 2011 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Coles Sports Center, 181 Mercer Street. Senators were asked to encourage their school’s faculty members to attend.

- Election of FSC Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Secretary, 2011-12
  - Chairperson Schacht informed the Council that a nominating committee will be elected by the EC for the nomination of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of at least two candidates for each position and the slate of candidates for the chair position will be announced the February FSC meeting and voted on at the March meeting. For the Vice Chair and Secretary, the slate of candidates will be announced at the April meeting and voted on at the May meeting.