SUMMARY OF THE FACULTY SENATORS COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2011

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- **FSC Events**
  - Chairperson Schacht noted Faculty Family Day at Coles was a success with an attendance of over 250. He also reminded the Council of the upcoming co-sponsored event with NYU Family Care, the documentary film screening and discussion of “Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America’s Achievement Culture” on Friday, March 4.

- **FSC Survey Data**
  - Schacht informed the Council that the immediate past chair of the Steinhardt Faculty Council and current chair of the Steinhardt Planning and Budget Committee requested a copy of the data of all Steinhardt responses from the FSC Survey. The Council approved sending this information.

- **Guests from NYU Poly and Abu Dhabi at March FSC Meeting**
  - Schacht stated that two representatives from NYU Poly, John Iacono and Avi Ulman, and one representative from NYU Abu Dhabi (AD), Shamoon Zamir, will attend the March FSC meeting as guests.
  - The NYU Poly representatives are members of the elected Poly faculty executive committee (FEC) and the NYU AD representative was suggested by Ron Robin.
  - Senator Harrington stated that the Governance Committee is examining the issue of representation of these schools.

- **Slate of Candidates for the Position of Chairperson 2011-2012**
  - The Nominating Committee announced the slate of candidates: Ted Magder (Steinhardt) and Robert Schacht (School of Medicine). The Council is invited to nominate additional candidates or vote for a senator not on the slate. The election will take place by secret ballot at the March FSC meeting.

- **NYU’s Proposed Changes to Retiree Medical Benefits: Premium Reimbursement Account (PRA)**
  - Senator Jones presented the details of the new premium reimbursement account (PRA). With the PRA, the account holder purchases medical insurance of their choice and is reimbursed up to the amount of the account. In the first year the account will total $3,000. Jones stated they arrived at the figure by taking the total NYU costs of retiree medical benefits and dividing by the number of retirees.
  - Jones reported the Board of Trustees (BOT) will vote on this new plan in February. Senator Karl reminded the Council this is a trustee-driven project for the achievement of cost-avoidance and cost-control.
  - Senator Bogart stated that with this change to retiree medical benefits, which will not affect current retirees or active faculty 50 years of age or over but will affect all new hires regardless of age and those under 50, will create two divisive groups.
  - Bogart argued that the institution has the ability to better negotiate plans and Harrington stated this removes the advantages of institutional weight. A group plan would be better than an individual plan.
  - Senators Magder and Nolan requested data on current costs of supplementary insurance and more information on which peer universities are making similar cuts.
  - Jones highlighted the two issues being discussed: the substance of the proposed changes and the issue of shared governance.
  - Immediate Past Chair Hammack reminded the Council that the BOT is singularly responsible for the fiduciary standing of the university, and they will argue this is not a matter for shared governance.
  - Jones suggested collecting the Council’s questions and concerns to present at the meeting with Alfano. She also stated her interest in having the consulting firm used to create this new proposal also evaluate the possibilities of a group plan and develop an alternate proposal.
  - Upon a motion duly made and seconded the following resolution was approved by a vote of 28 senators in favor with 2 abstentions:
    - **Whereas**, Based on concerns regarding the proposed changes in retiree medical benefits: Premium Reimbursement Account (PRA);
    - **Resolved**, That the FSC requests a moratorium and time to examine other cost-saving options.