SUMMARY OF THE FACULTY SENATORS COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2011

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- **FSC Spring Reception and Faculty Family Day**
  - Chairperson Schacht reported the FSC Spring Reception at the Torch Club on Feb. 1 was a success and reminded the Council of Faculty Family Day on Sunday, Feb. 13.

- **Educational Policies: Teaching Excellence**
  - Senator Moran referred to the report by the Teaching Excellence Committee regarding recommendations for improving and rewarding teaching excellence at NYU. Moran and Senator Raiken encouraged senators to look at this proposal and support the reestablishment of the teaching excellence program.

- **Resolution regarding faculty senators’ access to NYU School faculty email distribution lists**
  - Secretary Hutchins discussed the communication guidelines created by the Communications Committee to summarize the ways the Council communicates resolutions, meeting minutes and summaries, newsletters, etc. to faculty.
  - Hutchins also presented the Committee’s proposal regarding faculty senators’ access to NYU School faculty email distribution lists, which is intended to help senators better represent and communicate to their colleagues.
  - Upon a motion duly made and seconded the following resolution was approved unanimously by a vote of 33 senators in favor:
    - Whereas, The current elected senators of the Faculty Senators Council do not uniformly have the authority to send emails to all faculty members of their school;
    - Resolved, That all current elected senators of the Faculty Senators Council have the access and authority to send emails regarding Council matters to their school’s faculty members by means of their respective school’s faculty email distribution list, to be used in a reasonable and responsible manner without limit to the number of emails sent.

- **Resolution regarding changes to retiree medical benefits**
  - Senator Jones announced that the Benefits Committee was informed there will be a new retiree medical plan. The new plan will not affect current retirees or active faculty 50 years of age or over at the time it goes into effect. Jones described the change as moving from a defined benefit to a defined contribution. NYU will set up an account for each retiree with a certain amount of money to purchase insurance, such as Medigap insurance.
  - Jones stated Katie Casey (Vice President for Human Resources) and Linda Woodruff (Associate VP, Global Compensation & Benefits & Deputy of HR) attended the Benefits Committee meeting at the end of last semester to discuss the process. The FSC voiced its concerns, which they were told would be forwarded to the Board of Trustees.
  - Jones stated the message given to the Benefits Committee is the decision was a trustee-driven effort. The Committee was not tasked with developing the proposal, instead the benefit plan proposal was submitted by an outside company.
  - Senator Magder stated the concern is that this proposal is trustee-driven, not faculty-driven.
  - Upon a motion duly made and seconded the following resolution was approved unanimously by a vote of 33 senators in favor:
    - Whereas, The FSC objects that significant changes to the Faculty Retirement Plan have been undertaken with no meaningful faculty consultation;
    - Resolved, That we urge the Senior Executive Officers and the Board of Trustees to show greater respect for shared governance, now and in the future.
  - Jones also reported that the members of the Benefits Committee asked if a written statement could be produced confirming the promise that the 10% co-pay for tuition remission would remain in effect and not be considered for increase until 2015. Woodruff sent the link to a frequently asked questions site in which this statement was confirmed in Question 19. Jones commented the FAQ link was difficult to find on the EVP website, was undated and unsigned. Jones stated this is under discussion by the Communications Committee, particularly the best way to communicate and preserve important information such as this.

- **Housing Committee**
  - Senator Raiken announced, with Nick Economides on sabbatical, he will be chairing the Housing Committee this spring. He encouraged all senators to email him recommendations, concerns, and issues regarding housing.

- **Resolution of SOM Faculty Council regarding the FSC’s resolution**
  - Senator Monaco reported at the Dec. 6 meeting of the School of Medicine (SOM) Faculty Council a resolution was put forward regarding the FSC’s resolution: “Faculty Senators Council Resolution concerning Letters of Agreement at the School of Medicine”. It included a request that the resolution be rescinded and that future resolutions regarding the medical center be first reviewed and approved by the SOM. It was voted on and failed. Monaco stated the same resolution is being voted on again.
  - Monaco concluded by stating the resolution the FSC passed allows those faculty members who signed the letters of agreement the right to take action and be supported by the resolution.