• Guests from NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Poly
  o Professor Shamoon Zamir of NYU Abu Dhabi (AD), chair of the Faculty and Provost Executive Committee for NYU AD, described the current governance structure in NYU AD.
  o The current faculty council at AD is comprised of the entire faculty, including affiliate faculty. They restrict voting privileges to tenured, tenure-track faculty, or faculty with contracts longer than 3 years.
  o Zamir expressed the faculty's interest in establishing an ongoing dialogue with the FSC and receiving representation on the Council.
  o Zamir discussed the current grading policy and the movement to a pass/fail scale for first year students. The faculty were informed the decision was made by the leadership, received consideration, and it was not based on issues of plagiarism or a reflection on the quality of students. The rationale focused on institutions in the U.S. that have adopted this policy, i.e. MIT and Swarthmore, and its suitability to this unique cultural environment. The impact of policy will be closely monitored over the next three years.
  o Professors John Iacono and Avi Ulman from NYU Poly provided a brief introduction. The Polytechnic Institute of NYU is currently owned by NYU but is not yet a school of NYU. It is comprised of 80 tenured or tenure-track faculty in 11 departments. Its governance operates under their charter and by-laws, and it has a board of trustees separate from NYU. The faculty do not have an elected senate structure, but instead meet as a whole. They do however have committees, including the Executive Committee and Tenure and Promotion Committee, which are advisory in nature. The Provost of NYU makes final decisions on tenure.
  o The faculty of NYU Poly have the goal to complete the merger as soon as possible and believe it is especially important for the recruitment of new faculty.

• Election of FSC Chairperson, 2011-2012
  o The candidates for the position of Chairperson: Senator Ted Magder of Steinhardt and current Chairperson Robert Schacht of the School of Medicine presented their brief vision statements.
  o Magder stated his vision is to focus the business of the FSC on a manageable level, establish priorities, tackle issues effectively, improve transparency, and continue collaboration with the Administrative Management Council (AMC) and Student Senators Council (SSC).
  o Schacht stated he would like to focus more on governance and commented the time between ‘notice and comment’ is key. He stressed the importance of working hard with the administration and empowering faculty.
  o The election of FSC Chairperson for the 2011-12 academic year took place by secret ballot and Secretary Hutchins announced Ted Magder from the Steinhardt School will serve as FSC Chairperson next year.

• Motions and Voting Procedure
  o Secretary Hutchins presented a draft regarding motions and voting procedure developed by the Executive Committee for consideration by the Council. In order to have items of business which require votes receive the fullest consideration by all members of FSC, Hutchins stated the Committee suggests allocating time to have such items distributed in writing to the Council in advance of the debate.
  o Senator Monaco expressed her agreement with the proposal but stated concern over the delay in action because the Council only meets once a month. Hutchins responded if an urgent matter arises, parliamentary rules allow the rules to be suspended by a two-thirds vote.

• Reply to School of Medicine’s Faculty Council (SOM FC)
  o Senator Harrington presented the Committee’s proposed reply to Nathaniel Landau, President of the SOM FC, following his response to the FSC’s resolution regarding Letters of Agreement at the Medical Center. Harrington stated the Committee attempted to present a balanced letter allowing open channels of communication but also referring to the by-laws concerning jurisdiction.
  o Immediate Past Chair Hammack noted Landau’s letter made a substantive argument, and he questioned why the Committee is responding with a jurisdictional reply. He stated the Council did not have opportunity to discuss the substance of the issue at the Medical Center, the content of these letters, or the consequences of administrative versus academic assignments. Harrington answered that the Committee believed it was an issue of governance and jurisdiction.
  o After further discussion a motion was duly made and seconded that the letter presented by the Governance committee be approved. It was approved by a vote of 19 in favor, 2 senators opposed, and 3 abstentions.

• Governance Committee’s Four Features of Shared Governance
  o Harrington stated the Committee established an Accountability Ledger. The purpose of this is to track incidents in which established practices and procedures of shared governance have not been followed by the administration, as well as incidents where there has been compliance.
  o Harrington presented the Committee’s four basic features of shared governance: representation, information, consultation, and reasoned justifications.