MINUTES OF THE T-FACULTY SENATORS COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2017

The New York University Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council (T-FSC) met at noon on Thursday, December 14, 2017 in the Global Center for Academic & Spiritual Life at 238 Thompson Street, 5th Floor Colloquium Room.

In attendance were Senators Cappell, Fenton, Frankl, Garabedian, Irving, Lapiner, Ling, Longuenesse, Maniatakos, Merritt, Mincer, Porfiri, Shapley, Smoke, Tranchina, Uleman, Van Devanter, Watson, Weinberg, Zagzag, and Zamir; Active Alternate Manuel and Ralph; Alternate Senators Alter, Reiss, Schlick, and Tannenbaum.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the November 2, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

ELECTION BY SECRET BALLOT OF T-FSC CHAIRPERSON 2018-2019

See attached Document A: Candidate Statements.

Senator Shapley announced the list of candidates, presented by the Nominating Committee: Wen Ling from the Steinhardt School and Michael Ralph from the Faculty of Arts & Science. He asked for any nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The election of T-FSC Chairperson for 2018-2019 took place by secret ballot.

Senator Shapley and Manager of Faculty Governance Ridder supervised the counting of the ballots, including the absentee ballots. Shapley reported the results of the election at the end of the meeting: Wen Ling from the Steinhardt School will serve a second term as T-FSC Chair for academic year 2018-2019.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON: WEN LING

Faculty Mobility across NYU's Various Campuses

Chairperson Ling reported the Executive Committee (EC) discussed this issue with Provost Fleming and President Hamilton in the EC meetings with the Provost and President. Even though two New York City based faculty members were unable to teach at NYU Abu Dhabi as assigned, Provost Fleming commented that the quality of academic programs was not compromised. The university plans to continue collecting data on faculty mobility across different centers and campuses of the NYU Global Network University and publish a report every spring. Ling also spoke with Josh Taylor, Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Programs, who is responsible for collecting mobility data on faculty, staff, and students. Taylor will provide the 2017 calendar year data to the Council in early spring of 2018. Ling also met with the two senators based in NYU Abu Dhabi: Shamoon Zamir and Michail Maniatakos. She commented that both reassured her that the faculty’s academic freedom and academic program integrity are intact at NYU Abu Dhabi. Professors Zamir and Maniatakos will present to the Council on this issue at the meeting today.
Impact of the Tax Reform Act on NYU

Ling reported the potential impact of the proposed legislation was discussed during the EC meetings with President Hamilton. She stated it appears graduate student tuition remission will not be taxed, however, there is a strong possibility that tuition remission for faculty and staff's dependents or spouses will be taxed as additional income. She noted Marty Dorph sent an email in anticipation of that risk, suggesting that those using the benefit should submit the paperwork before December 31, 2017--to avoid being taxed for additional income in 2018.

Ling reported that it is also possible that for those in faculty housing, the difference between their current rent and market rent may be taxed.

She noted that once the final tax bill is passed, university administration committed to communicate promptly to the campus community about the specific implications for us all.

Office of Work Life

Ling announced that Grace Cosachov Protos is to join NYU as the Executive Director for the newly created Office of Work Life. Most recently, Grace was Regional Director at the United States Department of Labor, Women's Bureau. Ling will schedule a meeting with her in January.

PRESENTATION

Academic Freedom and Academic Program Integrity at NYU Abu Dhabi (AD)

Senators Maniatakos and Zamir presented on the issue. They discussed academic freedom as defined by freedom regarding research, teaching on campus, and extramural activity. They confirmed that in their experience working at NYU Abu Dhabi, they are not aware of any restrictions that have been placed on research or teaching, including student research.

They noted one restriction is that the laws of Abu Dhabi forbid direct criticism of main members of the Abu Dhabi government and any insult against Islam. But they noted this does not mean faculty cannot teach and critically discuss certain subject areas, i.e. Islam or Qur’anic studies.

In regards to the visa denial of two NYU faculty members, they noted as far as they are aware, there was never an agreement with the Abu Dhabi government that any faculty member is guaranteed entry to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). They noted this is also the case in terms of entrance to the United States, and noted the example of the NYU AD faculty member being denied access to the U.S. They commented NYU AD does not have control over global mobility, and global mobility in this sense should not be confused with academic freedom.

They noted the difference in political culture between the UAE and Europe or America, noting the reaction to something such as a visa denial may involve making a public noise, which is not the case in AD. The Senator noted this does not mean there was passivity following the visa denials. He stated there were discussions of the faculty council, a town hall, student articles published, and discussion with government partners.

A Senator noted while there may not be an agreement, he questioned if it makes a difference that the two people denied visas were NYU faculty members and therefore certified and vetted by NYU.

Maniatakos and Zamir stated their regret that the faculty members’ visas were denied but do not believe the connection to NYU would override the government’s authority to deny visas.

A Senator commented that NYU’s position with respect to the United States government is not the same as to the UAE. NYU partnered with the UAE to develop the new institution in Abu Dhabi.
A Senator asked how they suggest the Council respond to this issue in a way that would show support for colleagues in Abu Dhabi, and also express how the Council wishes the NYU administration to address the issue and be as effective as possible with the AD government.

Maniatakos and Zamir noted the need for communication with the AD faculty. They offered the example of AD faculty not being contacted prior to the statements made by the NYU Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. He noted faculty could enhance their ability to bargain with the senior administration if there were more collective dialogues among faculty at both campuses.

They also noted the AD campus would like the senior administration to help create better dialogues with the government partners on these kinds of issues.

A Senator inquired if they believed a resolution from this body would be helpful in moving forward their goals.

They commented it depends on what the faculty are trying to achieve. The Senator stated the importance of the goals being realistic, and does not believe NYU can receive a guarantee from the UAE government that NYU faculty will have complete unfettered mobility nor would the U.S. make such a guarantee.

A Co-Chair of the GNU Committee recommended making a statement that makes it clear this is a subject of concern to the faculty and that the faculty wish the administration to engage with their governmental partners in NYU Abu Dhabi to address the issue.

It was suggested to include the entire GNU, not just the UAE, in such a statement.

A Senator noted the Council passed a resolution in the past that requested the NYU administration do everything in its power to foster mobility within the global network. One of the positive results of that statement was the annual mobility report.

Chairperson Ling stated she will send links to the mobility reports. She will also contact Joshua Taylor to receive more information on the incident of an NYU AD faculty member being detained and denied access to the United States.

She concluded by thanking Senators Maniatakos and Zamir for their presentation and thanking all portal campus Senators for their participation in meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

See attached Document B: Committee Reports.

The following Council and University Committees submitted reports:

Administration & Technology: Co-Chairs Jim Jacobs & Carol Reiss
Finance and Policy Planning: Co-Chairs Nick Economides & Maurizio Porfiri
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

There was no discussion or questions on the submitted reports.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.
Statement from Wen Ling as a Candidate for the Chair of TFSC

My commitment to New York University, to my colleagues and to the educational access and success of all students has guided my decision to become a candidate for the Chair position.

I am currently serving my first term as the chair of TFSC and third term as a senator from the Steinhardt School. As the chair, I have had the opportunity to advocate for tenured and tenured track faculty members and to gain an understanding of the policies, procedures and spirit of the TFSC and the University. I have developed a collaborative working relationship with the University leadership and chairs of other councils of the University Senate.

With the principles of shared governance in mind, and my profound respect for the NYU family, I believe that a great faculty is absolutely vital for the University of today. My vision for the TFSC is to take a very proactive role in such matters as financial and academic integrity of the NYU global community. TFSC has made some gains in the management of retirement funds. Several other issues that I want to address are faculty salary and benefits (e.g. tuition remission and portable tuition), student success, a more engaged, technologically enhanced approach to pedagogy, and the need for building a more diverse faculty and student community.

Through strategic partnerships, I believe the TFSC is poised to tackle the complex global challenges that NYU faces. If elected, I am committed to helping the TFSC fulfill the University’s promise of access and excellence.
December 12, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to be nominated for the position of T-FSC Chairperson.

I taught in the Department of Anthropology at Cornell University for one year before joining the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU a decade ago. Since that time, I have had the pleasure to serve this institution in a number of different capacities.

I am a Faculty Fellow-in-Residence. I have been a served on a number of university committees (Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Honors and Awards Committee, Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Selection Committee) as well as a committee that reports directly to the President (Teaching Technology Committee). I am a member of the Steering Committee of the Faculty of Color Caucus. In addition, I have served as Director of the Program in Metropolitan Studies and currently serve as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis.

I envision my role as Chairperson of the T-FSC as twofold: I would like to help create a stronger sense of intellectual community for faculty frustrated by the disaggregated and siloed structure of the university (by helping NYU to appreciate the benefits of providing greater support for our research and to be creative in fundraising for the faculty lines we request). Further, I will be vigilant in my role as your advocate. I feel confident I can help convince the administration and the Board of Trustees that a sincere engagement with faculty concerns and proposals is the most expeditious way to create a top-notch research university. I would like to help foster an atmosphere for conversation and debate around the curricular and extracurricular dimensions of the NYU experience that is spirited yet governed by the quest to have us realize our grandest ambitions as a private university in the public service.

In struggle,

Michael Ralph
The Joint Senate Administration and Technology Policy committee has met 5 times during the Fall 2017 semester (and its subcommittee has met additional times) to develop a document entitled “Guidelines for the Use of Third-Party Software as an Instructional Tool”. The document is being finalized and will be brought forward to each of the 5 councils in the Spring Term. We hope that after discussion, the councils will vote for this set of recommendations, and they will be sent to the Provost’s office for implementation in the fall 2018 semester.
Finance committee report 12/4/17

The SFAC met on 11/28/17. Key points:

The tax reform may impact the University’s finances negatively mainly in (i) reducing tax incentives for small and medium amounts of charitable giving; (ii) imposing a special tax surcharge on non-profits’ administrators’ salaries exceeding $1 million; (iii) possibly taxing financial aid or scholarships (although this seems unlikely in the latest version of the tax bill); others. There is still uncertainty about the specific provisions of the new law and their impact.

The TFSC had asked in advance of the SFAC meeting to be provided with (i) the distribution of the maturities of NYU’s debt; and (ii) the payments NYU has to make on current debt (principal and interest). The administration submitted at SFAC the attached chart that shows that maturities are distributed over a long period of time. In terms of yearly cost, NYU pays yearly approximately $100 million of the outstanding principal, and $130 million in interest, that is, a total of $230 million. To complete planned investment projects in the next 5-7 years including the large building at Mercer Street, NYU plans to borrow about $2 billion, although the exact amount is uncertain. Current average interest rate on NYU debt is just below 4%. If the same terms of the present debt apply to future debt (which is not guaranteed given the tendency for higher interest rates), we expect the new borrowing to result in an additional payment of principal of $60 million per year and an additional payment of interest of $80 million, that is, a total of $140 million per year. So, after the new borrowing of $2 billion, NYU’s yearly debt cost will be $370 million a year.

We also heard from Vice Provost Clay Shirky on online programs at NYU. Bottom line is that the total number of online students across NYU is presently about 3,000, and NYU would like this number to expand to 10,000. There was an extensive discussion on evaluating building internal capabilities as opposed to buying from an outside company.
New York University: Outstanding Long-Term Debt Obligations as of Fiscal Year End*

The University’s most recent transaction, which is typical of the current strategy to borrow on a partially tax-exempt and partially taxable basis, achieved an all-in cost of funds of 3.5%, inclusive of fees. As a result of the traditional premium coupons on tax-exempt bonds, the outstanding principal balance (net of original issue premium) bears a higher interest rate of 4.5%, on average.

*These figures reflect current outstanding debt, excluding NYU Langone Health System, and does not include new borrowings that are currently contemplated in the University Financial Plan. The latest maturity for the currently outstanding debt is fiscal year 2048.
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Ernesto Reuben (Chair, Social Science), George Shubeita (Science), Rafael Song (Engineering), Carlos Guedes (Arts & Humanities), John O’Brien (At Large), Charles Grim (Ex-Officio), Teodora Hristovska (Student), Imelda Wellington (Student)

31 Oct 2017

Recent Meetings


Key Updates

1. Discussed proposal to create divisional UCCs.
2. Reviewed and approved 28 syllabi for J-term 2018
3. Reviewed and requested substantive changes to 10 syllabi for the J-term 2018
4. Reviewed and approved 39 syllabi for Spring 2018
5. Reviewed and requested substantive changes to 8 syllabi for Spring 2018

Summary

So far, this semester the UCC has concentrated on reviewing the J-term 2018 and Spring 2018 syllabi. In addition, we have discussed the creation of divisional UCCs.

Attachments

- Divisional UCCs proposal

Next Steps

1. Finish reviewing all Spring 2018 syllabi.
2. Creation of a set of participation rubrics that are in line with the approved participation guidelines and can serve as examples for faculty to use when creating their own syllabi.
PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF DIVISIONAL UCCs

• That each division, as well as the Core Program (including the Writing Program), have an Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

• That Divisional UCCs be chaired by the divisional representative to the UCC. This procedure will ensure that Divisional UCCs understand the expectations and procedures of the NYUAD UCC. The Core Curriculum Committee will serve as the Core UCC with the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Development serving as the chair and as an additional ex officio member of the UCC.

• That the chair of the Divisional UCC will review all proposed new courses, new programs, or substantive changes to programs within the division as well as for any multidisciplinary program whose administrative home is or is expected to be within the division.

• That the NYUAD UCC and the Divisional UCCs will implement a course proposal form that gathers the complete information required to assure a thorough review of any proposed courses. [An example of what this form might look like is included as attachment.] Using such a form will require the chair of each Divisional UCC to account for the placement of new courses and programs within the division and will help prevent course redundancy within and between divisions.

• That in considering proposals for new courses, the Divisional UCCs will make sure that the preliminary syllabus meets NYUAD’s standards for syllabus construction and conforms to accreditation requirements.

• That once a course is approved and its syllabus certified by the Divisional UCC, it is submitted to the Divisional Dean for approval and signature before being transmitted to the UCC for consideration.

• That new or significantly revised courses cannot be listed in Albert until approved by the NYUAD UCC. However, on an exceptional basis a course whose syllabus has been approved by the Divisional UCC but not yet approved by the NYUAD UCC may be listed in Albert with the approval of the Vice Provost for Academic Administration.

• That NYUAD use the same deadlines for new course submission used by NYU NY CAS: February 1 for fall courses; September 1 for January and spring courses; November 15 for summer courses.

Present UCC Remit (from the web)

The UCC is the central mechanism through which NYUAD shall assess undergraduate curricula across the academic divisions, multi-disciplinary programs and the core; additionally, the UCC will oversee the integration of Global Network University courses into NYUAD programs. The UCC aims to enrich and support the development of the programs
that will distinguish NYUAD as "the world’s honors college." The composition and remit of the Committee may change as the structures of governance evolve at NYUAD.

It is expected that the UCC will consult with the Deans and with members of faculty as and when necessary. The UCC is charged with reviewing proposed changes to the undergraduate curriculum, including but not limited to:

- New course submission
- Graduation requirements
- Changes to undergraduate curricula
- Cross registration — study away, J-term, summer school, and other

In addition to vetting the proposal of all new courses, the UCC will consider general education and graduation requirements — including, for the time being, the core program — as well as the logistics related to cross-listing courses with the Global Network University (GNU), in order to ensure that courses conducted outside of Abu Dhabi comply with NYUAD program requirements and standards. UCC may also forward its own proposals relating to the curriculum to FCSC and the Council. For more information, get in touch with us at nyuad.ucc@nyu.edu.