Meeting Date: February 13, 2013

Members in attendance: Barbara Albrecht, Robert Berne, John Billings, Corey Blay, Sewin Chan, Mary Cowman, Allyson Green, Mariam Ehrari, David Engel, Allyson Green, Wen-Jui Han, James Jacobs, Angela Kamer, Perri Klass, Marty Kurth, Ted Magder (chair), Laurence Maslon, Tony Movshon, Tony Saunders, Rosemary Scanlon, Andrew Schotter, Jalal Shatah, Matt Stanley, David Vintinner, Larry White, Diane Yu

Members unable to attend: Panos Mavromatis

1. Call to order and announcements

The meeting began with the introduction of a new business item: the consideration of a proposal to recommend that a proposal regarding the Northern superblock be tabled and brought back at a later date as part of the Working Group’s deliberations. While the Group noted that their charge does not include the need to make specific recommendations about the North block, members see the development of both blocks as inextricably linked.

Members engaged in a discussion, noting that the ULURP process and the University have indicated that building on the North block will not commence for at least ten years. It was noted that any determination about such a recommendation should be included at a later stage, once the Working Group has reached consensus about the issues such as assessments of needs, finances and quality of life. The Group agreed to table the proposal and consider it as an option when forming final recommendations. In the interim, members agreed to use their scheduled sessions with deans and faculty colleagues to effectively communicate the NYU Core Plan, specifically the minimum ten-year period before building on the North block.

2. Discussion of University responses to requests for information

[All of the University’s responses are posted to the Working Group’s Web site.]

Members reviewed the responses from the University to the questions that were posed at the beginning of the Spring semester. The information provided by the Provost, with regard to the decision-making process undertaken when space requests are brought forward from deans, was particularly relevant as members begin to set meetings with their respective
deans. Many expressed a desire to understand the process by which individual schools and units convey their needs for space, including how the process for student space (e.g., dormitories, lounge space, etc.) is distinct from academic space (e.g., classrooms, departments, offices, etc.). Members agreed to focus on this process during their individual meetings with deans. The meetings will also include questions about alternative solutions to increasing space, such as opportunities for online learning.

Moving to the University’s response to the Group’s questions about faculty housing, members agreed that the level of detail that was provided was not adequate for the Group to make any informed recommendation. Executive Vice President Alison Leary has agreed to provide further information. In addition, the subcommittee on Academic and Non-Academic space was urged to examine and consider the responses regarding classroom space and student space, respectively.

Student members of the Group are invited to join the faculty members’ sessions with the deans in order to avoid subjecting the deans to multiple meetings on the same subject.

3. Charge and assignment of subcommittees

Following the last meeting of the Working Group, members were divided into three subcommittees:
- Academic and Non-Academic Space
- Quality of Life
- Finance

The chair encouraged members of the Group to review all of the relevant documentation received by the Working Group thus far in its process, and to try to determine what additional information might be needed to undertake the deliberations of each subcommittee. Each committee was also urged to work quickly and iteratively, keeping careful records and forming the rationale and language for the Group’s recommendations for the final report.

Subcommittees will schedule additional meetings, including sessions with members of the University administration, and will report back at the plenary meetings of the Working Group.

4. Subcommittee planning meetings

Each subcommittee held an initial planning meeting to discuss the following:
- Election of a chair
- Formation of questions for administration members
- Determination of further information needed
- Scheduling of subcommittee meetings