



SUMMARY OF THE FACULTY SENATORS COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

- **NYU's Global Initiatives: Ulrich Baer, Vice Provost for Globalization and Multicultural Affairs**
 - Vice Provost Baer discussed NYU's study abroad program, which has the highest number of American students studying abroad from one institution; every year about 2,600 total students study abroad.
 - Baer reported NYU sites offer a unique model in which credits transfer and may meet requirements for majors, students may carry their financial aid packages, and they allow NYU departments to shape programs and ensure conformity with NYU standards. Also, there is a large focus on security and this model enables NYU greater oversight of locations and student safety.
 - Concerns were raised about students in the sciences being unable to study abroad because of lab requirements. Baer responded that London does offer some lab courses, and they will be added to the Tel Aviv program. He cited the financial challenges of setting up lab space as reason for lack of science courses abroad. He also advised departments to mold programs so students can leave for one semester and still fulfill lab requirements.
 - In response to question on ability for NYU faculty to teach abroad, Baer stated there is no policy to restrict NYU faculty teaching abroad. Yet there are challenges, including lack of funding.

- **Taskforce on Best Practices in Student Learning**
 - Chairperson Hammack mentioned the request by Provost McLaughlin to put together a Task Force on Best Practices for Student Learning Assessment. Senator Reiss is leading the task force, composed of faculty and administrators from several schools, ITS and the Libraries. It will make its report at the end of the Fall, 2009 semester.

- **Cancellation of New Faculty Reception/Co-sponsorship of New Faculty Lunch**
 - Chairperson Hammack reported, due to transitions in the office over the summer, the New Faculty Reception will not take place this year.
 - The Faculty Senators Council is co-sponsoring the New Faculty Lunch with the Office of the Provost. This is an opportunity for the FSC to introduce their role and encourage new faculty members' involvement in governance issues.
 - The spring reception will take place.

- **NYU Bus Route Changes**
 - Chairperson Hammack informed the Council that the NYU bus routes have been reduced without consultation with the FSC, Student Senators Council (SSC), Administrative Management Council (AMC), or a formal announcement to the campus community. The FSC Executive Committee is currently working with the SSC and AMC to draft a letter regarding the decision and lack of consultation.

- **FSC Communications**
 - Chairperson Hammack stated his focus this year is on better communication to the FSC's constituencies, particularly through the website and newsletter.

- **School of Medicine Resolution**
 - The following resolution was approved on September 17, 2009:
“Resolution: In support of our School of Medicine Colleagues, Approved September 17, 2009
The Faculty Senators Council reiterates its earlier [May 1, 2008] resolution regarding procedures affecting the Faculty of the NYU School of Medicine. In particular, as we have stated before, it is our understanding of the provisions of the Faculty Handbook that tenure protect faculty members' economic security. Second, we encourage Administrators and Faculty to use established procedures and that consultation and good faith collegial governance be followed going forward. Finally, take the position that new policies should not be retroactively applied. We continue to hope that a collegial resolution of any differences between the SOM faculty and its administration will soon be achieved.”

- **Benefits Discussion: Mary Ann Jones**
 - Senator Jones distributed a document from the Human Resources Policies Assessment Task Force (HRPAT). All these documents may be found at: <http://www.nyu.edu/task.forces/hr/>
 - One of her specific recommendations is to evaluate the proposed elimination of retiree tuition remission benefits and the suggested costs to the university.