



To: William R. Berkley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Andrew D. Hamilton, President

From: Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council

Re: Response to your letter of July 24, 2018 about Representation of Faculty on the NYU Board of Trustees

Date: October 17, 2018

Please find this correspondence as a response to your letter of July 24. The Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council (TFSC) thanks the Board of Trustees for taking several positive steps, specified in your letter, to increase the scope of meaningful interactions between Board members and all faculty. Faculty members are very appreciative of the Board's willingness for increased collaborative engagement.

The TFSC offers two clarifications. First, the resolution in which the TFSC proposed the addition of faculty to the Board of Trustees was presented to the New York University Senate at the Senate's March 29, 2018 meeting. Following extensive debate, the full University Senate voted in favor of the TFSC resolution. Thus the resolution to the Board of Trustees came from the University Senate (inclusive of tenure, continuing, student, and administrative councils).

A second point of clarification. In your letter of July 24 you wrote as if the TFSC resolution requested the addition of only tenured/tenure track faculty to the Board of Trustees but this was not in the text of the resolution proposed by the TFSC that was passed by the University Senate. In the spirit of inclusion, TFSC members wanted to avoid limiting the request to tenured/tenure track faculty. The resolution passed by the TFSC intentionally requested representation of all faculty on the Board. It is possible that you were sent a previous incorrect text of the resolution. When it was re-drafted for presentation to the Senate, the TFSC resolution's text was revised incorrectly, changing "faculty" to "tenured/tenure track faculty," but that error was corrected by an amendment presented at the March 2018 Senate meeting, as recorded in the minutes of that meeting (online). Perhaps the Board received the uncorrected, unamended text that conveyed the misimpression that TFSC proposed only tenured/tenure-track faculty representation, but that was not the TFSC's intention.

Finally, with all due respect to the NYU Board of Trustees, the TFSC does not agree with the characterization of the faculty of the University merely as "stakeholders." As was stated in the TFSC resolution voted on by the University Senate in March 2018, "faculty members have a distinctive perspective on the research and educational mission, and on the culture and administration of our University." Faculty members are the people who carry out the research and educational mission of the University. The undisputed stellar reputation and elevated level of accomplishment of New York University are a direct result of the work of the faculty (both tenured and continuing). Many faculty believe that representation of faculty on the Board of Trustees would provide a more holistic perspective of the University to the Board than at present.

In an effort to move forward in a positive way, we take the following steps to increase mutual engagement:

- 1) We invite Board representatives to attend upcoming meetings of the Tenured/Tenured Track Faculty Senators Council (dates of which are posted on the NYU Website under TFSC; [TFSC Meeting Calendar](#)).

- 2) We will move forward in scheduling a meeting between a sub-group of the Board and a sub-group of the TFSC in order to discuss our ideas about increased inclusion and participation.

We plan to act on these two steps quickly. We also request that the Board considers taking its own action to foster greater engagement between Board and faculty, namely, that representatives from the faculty councils be allowed to participate as non-voting observers in general trustee meetings.

We offer our sincere gratitude for your consideration.