



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

A private university in the public service

Office of the Provost

Elmer Holmes Bobst Library
70 Washington Square South, Room 1221
New York, New York 10012-1091
Telephone: 212 998 3077
Facsimile: 212 995 3190
david.mclaughlin@nyu.edu

David W. McLaughlin *Provost*

October 8, 2009

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

As we begin the new academic year, I am very pleased to greet our returning faculty and to welcome the new faculty who are joining New York University. As I do each year, I would like to use this occasion to bring your attention to some of the recent developments and initiatives at NYU, and to direct you to web sites that can provide additional information.

NEW FACULTY: Our schools and departments have recruited an outstanding group of new faculty colleagues. A list of our new tenured/tenure track faculty and brief profiles of their research interests and backgrounds are available at <http://www.nyu.edu/provost/faculty/new.faculty.html> .

An important but far from exclusive focus of our hiring initiative has been investment in faculty for the arts and science core, including the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and the Institute of Fine Arts, funded in part by generous contributions from our "Partner" Trustees. Our goal has been to hire 250 faculty members over a multi-year period: 125 to replace those who leave due to natural turnover, and 125 to increase the size of the faculty by 20%. Thanks to the secure funding of Partners, no Partners searches were suspended in academic year 2008-09 and no associated Partners capital projects were cancelled. To date, six years since the inception of Partners, 245 faculty members have been hired and growth (net of separations) totals over 90% of the goal. Most of the remaining Partners recruits will be in the natural sciences, which (because of space and start-up needs) were planned to be recruited at a slower pace than in the social sciences and humanities.

I have the opportunity to meet with many of our faculty members in casual and formal venues over the course of the year, and I enjoy these occasions tremendously. Faculty should always feel free to contact my office directly to arrange a time to talk.

NEW ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP: We are very proud to welcome our new deans. They are: Peter Henry, who will assume responsibilities as Dean of the Stern School of Business in January 2010; Patricia Lee Rubin, Director of the Institute of Fine Arts; and Lynn Videka, Dean of the Silver School of Social Work. A search is underway to select a new Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Faculty are invited

to submit nominations to the Chair of the Dean's Selection Committee, George Downs, Professor of Politics and the former Dean of Social Science.

Additional information about the Deans of all schools, as well as the members of the Provost's Office (who make up the University's leadership in enrollment management and the administration of research, science and technology; academics; and undergraduate and graduate life) is available at <http://www.nyu.edu/provost/about.office>

THE GLOBAL NETWORK UNIVERSITY AND NYU ABU DHABI: The evolution of NYU as a global network university is taking a significant step as we develop our plans for the Fall 2010 start of classes at NYU Abu Dhabi, the first comprehensive liberal arts and science campus in the Middle East to be operated by a major American research university. Already, our students can pursue their studies abroad at ten Global Academic Centers on five continents, with the newest program opening this semester in Tel Aviv. NYU leads all universities in students studying abroad: over 40 percent of our undergraduates now spend at least one semester abroad at one of our sites, and each year the number increases. NYU in New York and NYU in Abu Dhabi, taken together, will be two portals that will link all NYU academic centers within a dynamic global network in which faculty and students connect and carry out instruction and research enabled by both technology and travel. (See <http://www.nyu.edu/global.network/> and <http://abudhabi.nyu.edu/> .) Many faculty members have played a leadership role in developing curriculum for NYU Abu Dhabi, recruiting faculty, committing to teach, and submitting proposals to inaugurate research, scholarship, and creative projects at the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute. A first round of these proposals is presently under review, and a second round of proposals is invited for a newly announced July 2010 application deadline. (For a full statement of the organization of research at NYU Abu Dhabi and guidelines and applications for grant opportunities, see <http://nyuad.nyu.edu/institute/research.grants.html> .)

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD: As our newest school, the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) was established in 2006. This fall it is admitting its first Ph.D. class and its second group of postdoctoral fellows. It hosts a research seminar series, has acquired several major libraries, and is planning its second major exhibition. ISAW is building a stellar faculty and has a roster of affiliated faculty members in other departments. (See <http://www.nyu.edu/isaw/about.htm> .)

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK UNIVERSITY: Polytechnic Institute, which affiliated with NYU in June 2008, continues its development toward becoming a school of NYU. It is strengthening its recruitment of faculty and strong students, expanding its recruitment nationally and internationally, and developing programs that help integrate Poly students into NYU. Exciting joint faculty research is developing, with collaborations in science and engineering grants, and conferences in areas that range from urban studies, to imaging, to security and privacy. Last year a seed fund, established to strengthen NYU-Poly partnerships, awarded grants to almost

two dozen research teams at Poly, the Square, and the School of Medicine. (To read more about the Poly affiliation and academic programs, follow links from <http://www.poly.edu> .)

NYU POSTDOCTORAL AND TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC DIVERSITY: This initiative, joint between the Council of School Deans and the Office of the Provost, aims to strengthen the presence of scholars who are traditionally underrepresented in academia. The Program supports promising scholars and educators from different backgrounds, races, ethnic groups, and other diverse groups whose life experiences, research experiences, and employment backgrounds will contribute significantly to academic excellence at NYU. For 2009-10, two-year awards were made to five scholars who are currently in residence at Wagner, Stern, Gallatin, Steinhardt, and Tisch, joining the six scholars who started their term in 2008-09. The application process for next year is in progress. (See <http://www.nyu.edu/diversity/academics.research/fellowship.html> .)

ENROLLMENT: As President Sexton reported in his letter to the University community, University undergraduate enrollment is steady across the University, and graduate and professional school enrollment is up modestly from last year. We welcome our new and returning students, and will continue to monitor our registration and our retention throughout the year.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES: Notwithstanding economic constraints, the University is making significant capital investments in academic facilities, renovating and constructing offices, laboratories, lecture halls, conference rooms, and student areas. Recent projects are profiled at <http://www.nyu.edu/provost/academic.facilities/> . Among these, on the north side of the park, the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute will soon move into its new home at 19 Washington Square North, and the School of Law has renovated 22 Washington Square North to house visiting professors and scholars in several of its international centers. On the south side of the park, the Center for Academic and Spiritual Life, providing a communal home for students' religious and spiritual lives as well as academic spaces, is under construction on a site adjacent to the Kimmel Center. On Waverly Place, construction is proceeding on a building for genomics and biological sciences, and work will soon begin on a consolidated home for the School of Continuing and Professional Studies in the Fairchild Building on East 12 Street. We have also created new academic spaces within the Stern School of Business complex at West 4th Street and at the Gallatin School at 715 Broadway. In addition to these school projects, there has been substantial construction and refurbishment of the University's general purpose classrooms. For Fall 2009, our classroom inventory includes 11 new classrooms in Tisch Hall Concourse, 13 new classrooms in Bobst Library Lower Concourse, 5 refurbished seminar rooms on upper floors of Bobst Library, 5 resized classrooms in Goddard Hall, 8 renovated classrooms in the Waverly Building, and 2 new seminar-style day use classrooms in Weinstein Hall. These new or refurbished classrooms represent roughly 20% of our classroom inventory, with additional

classrooms to be built in the Center for Academic and Spiritual Life, the Fairchild Building, and the new science building.

It is my pleasure and honor to work with our faculty and students in the multiple ways in which we seek to advance the University. I look forward to continuing to work together throughout the coming year.

With best wishes for a fulfilling academic year,

David W. McLaughlin
Provost
New York University