



**Minutes of a Stated Meeting of the  
Senate of New York University  
February 6, 2014**

A stated meeting of the Senate of New York University was held on Thursday, February 6, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in the Colloquium Room of the Global Center for Academic and Spiritual Life, 238 Thompson Street. The meeting was convened with Dr. Sexton in the chair.

**Faculty Senators Council Members Present:** Raghu Sundaram (Chair), Everett Allgood, Mark Alter, Sylvain Cappell, Sewin Chan, Pamela Cowin, Hasia Diner, Benard Dreyer, Stephen Duncombe (for Michael Dinwiddie), Miriam Ebsworth (for Mark Alter), Halina Frydman (for Jennifer Carpenter), Warren Jelinek, Angela Kamer, Mitchell Kane, Rebecca Karl, Achiau Ludomirsky, Allen Mincer, Ann Morning, Maurizio Porfiri, Arvind Rajagopal, Charlie Rubin (for Awam Amkpa), Eric Simon (for David Stokes), Eero Simoncelli, Victoria Stanhope, and Celia Stewart (for Wen Ling).

**Student Senators Council Members Present:** Mariam Ehrari (Chair), Charvais Bartelle Buckholts, Corey Blay, Anushua Choudnury, Mason Dettloff, Griffin Dooling, Jessica L Hawk, Derek Hedbany, Michael Hengerer, Harris Inskeep-Rosenfeld, Sameer Jaywant, Kevin Jones, Daniel Kao, Ethan McCooper, Sathya Sathyanarayanaa Nellore Sampat, Brian Plaut, Yash Shah, Danyal Syed, Patrick Ryan Totaro and Colin Waddell.

**Deans Council Members Present:** Charles Bertolami, Thomas Carew, Patricia Carey (for Mary Brabeck), Dennis DiLorenzo, Allyson Green (for Mary Schmidt Campbell), Randy Hertz (for Trevor Morrison), Joanne Hvala (for Peter Blair Henry), Martin Kurth (for Carol Mandel), Willie Long (for Gabrielle Starr), Ellen Lovitz (for Sharon Glied), Trevor Morrison, Lynn Videka, Diann Witt (for Geeta Menon), and Susanne Wofford.

**Administrative Management Council Members Present:** David Vogelsang (Chair), John De Santis, Anita Dwyer, Norma Kenigsberg (for Tatum Soo Kim), Eugenia Mejia (for Anita Dwyer), Kristi Schwindt Ramos, and David Vintinner (for David Vogelsang).

**University Administration Members Present:** Robert Berne, Bonnie Brier, Martin Dorph, David McLaughlin, and John Sexton.

**Review and Approval of the Minutes of the December 5, 2013 Meeting**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the December 5, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously as presented, with one typographic correction.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

Mariam Ehrari reported on several changes in committee assignments, noting that a revised list of committee assignments was included in the mailing for the meeting.

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

Brian Plaut reported that the Academic Affairs Committee has not met since the last Senate meeting but expects to bring several proposals to the next meeting of the Senate.

### **Committee on Organization & Governance**

Warren Jelinek reported on a trilateral meeting with the Senate Committee on Organization and Governance (“SCOG”), the Full-Time Contract Faculty (“FTCF”) Planning Committee (“Planning Committee”), and the Senate Executive Committee (“EC”), held on December 9, 2013. He advised that at the meeting, SCOG made a short presentation that included: a description of some recent changes to the composition of the Senate as to which SCOG made recommendations; the process by which a new Council would be added to the Senate; issues that SCOG will consider in its recommendation for a new FTCF Council, particularly the resultant size of the Senate, the balance of representation of the Councils in the Senate, and the representation of the Councils on the standing committees of the Senate; possible models for the composition of a new FTCF Council based on the models of representation of the current Senate Councils, including a description of the current method of representation by equal proportions for allocating Faculty Senators Council Senators to schools; and a rationale for a lack of proportionality (such as the capping of the number of Faculty Senators Council Senators from the School of Medicine).

He related that the remainder of the December 9 meeting was devoted to a question-and-answer format where Planning Committee members asked questions of SCOG and the EC. He noted that the minutes of this trilateral meeting and the approved minutes of the FTCF Planning Committee meetings are posted on the Senate website on the “Committees” page under SCOG.

Dr. Jelinek reported that the FTCF Planning Committee advises it will make its suggestions for a FTCF Council by February 10, 2014, the deadline set by SCOG. He stated that SCOG’s next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2014, at which time it hopes to formulate its recommendation, taking into account the suggestions of each of the Councils, the guiding principles of the EC, and the suggestions of the FTCF Planning Committee; and SCOG will attempt to meet again with the FTCF Planning Committee during the week of February 17, 2014 to discuss SCOG’s recommendation and resolve any final details.

### **Public Affairs Committee**

Arthur Tannenbaum presented a moment in history: on this date in 1971, Alan Shepard became the first person to hit a golf ball on the moon, which he did to demonstrate the effect of low gravity. Mr. Tannenbaum reported on discussions at the Committee, including: NYU's success in receiving an incubator designation from the State; Governor Cuomo's budget, which has not cut funding for the programs that most affect NYU students; the federal budget agreement, which eliminates sequestration in the higher education area; NYU activities in the Washington, DC area; and NYU increasing the space available for pre-K education by partnering with a local organization. Mr. Tannenbaum also lauded the community service efforts of NYU students, noting that students are engaged in a staggering number of community service hours. Dr. Sexton spoke to the University's extraordinary depth of community service and other activities throughout New York City.

### **Financial Affairs Committee**

Martin Dorph reported on the Committee's last meeting, at which employee benefits were discussed in detail. He advised that the University's budget process is just beginning. He explained that the Finance Committee of the University's Board of Trustees has developed budget parameters for the administration to use for planning purposes, and those parameters have been sent to all schools and units so that they can develop their budget plans using the parameters. He announced that the goal is for a full set of recommendations concerning the University's budget to be prepared and presented to the Finance Committee in May.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Administrative Management Council**

David Vintinner reported that since the December Senate meeting, the Administrative Management Council has met twice. At its January meeting, the AMC held an open discussion with Council members on AMC communication and visibility to new employees. He advised that he has been in discussion with Gov Lab to look at creating a platform for electronic engagement in the AMC. The AMC also launched its annual drive for recycled personal items such as eyeglasses, soft goods, and greeting cards, as well as held a Winter Social. At the AMC's February meeting, Cora Fung from Polytechnic School of Engineering was confirmed as an Alternate Senator from the AMC, replacing Tom Helleberg, and the Program Services Office presented on PeopleLink and People Sync. The benefits committee continues its discussion on administrative benefits, especially in relation to consistent communication and practices. Finally, the AMC's Special Events committee will be hosting its annual Town Hall with President Sexton on Tuesday, February 11.

### **Deans Council**

Lynn Videka reported on the Deans Council's efforts regarding the new "The World of Thanks" Program (for named student scholarships) in which students show appreciation to donors for their gifts. This program has led the Council to discuss development capacity building more broadly. She advised that she will be reaching out to Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Debra La Morte to suggest dean-development director workshops on selected topics. Dean Videka also reported on the Council's discussions concerning undergraduate GPA policies for students changing majors and transferring schools. Regarding inter-school communications, she related that the Silver School has plans for programs at NYU Shanghai. Matters for future consideration by the Deans Council include: emergency closing policies, technology enhanced education, and presentations on initiatives at Gallatin, SCPS, and GIPH.

### **Faculty Senators Council**

Raghu Sundaram reported that the Faculty Senators Council had its first meeting of the calendar year on January 31, where it principally discussed technology-enhanced education (including the interim report of that committee and what could be expected in the final report). The FSC has set its schedule for the rest of the year, and, among other things, has scheduled the following visits: the Provost at its February meeting; Andy Gordon from HR to discuss benefits at the March meeting; President Sexton at the April meeting; and the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Martin Lipton, at the May meeting.

### **Student Senators Council**

Ms. Ehrari reported that on a retreat to NYU Washington, DC, the Student Senators Council had engaged in spirited debates about the direction of student government and its goals for the semester. The SSC will be sending out a survey to all NYU students shortly to learn more about student needs and how the SSC can best address them. The SSC has begun planning the Violet 100, which will bring together students from across the University to partake in games and spirit. She noted that while the SSC is sad to see some of its fellow Senators return to Abu Dhabi, the SSC is excited to welcome new Abu Dhabi student representatives to NYU's student government, as well as its newest representatives from the Polytechnic School of Engineering. The SSC's first meeting of the semester will take place directly after the Senate meeting.

## **NYU UNDERGRADUATE FINANCIAL AID**

Dr. Sexton introduced Vice President of Enrollment Management Randall Deike to speak about undergraduate financial aid at NYU.

Dr. Deike related that in recent years the University has made changes in its policies on awarding aid to increase financial aid for NYU's neediest students. The University also made a decision in 2012 to begin awarding grants and scholarships in amounts greater

than the sum of tuition and fees, in recognition of the fact that the total cost of education is substantially higher than tuition and fees. Dr. Deike advised that the University has seen an increase in the neediest undergraduates (Pell Grant recipients) from 18% in 2002 to 20% in 2013; and he expressed gratitude that philanthropy focused on financial aid has increased, noting that the University's current Momentum Campaign is the most aggressive fundraising campaign in the country specifically focused on financial aid. In addition, NYU has inaugurated two new financial aid programs for undergraduates: the Finish Line Grant (awarding graduating students in their last semester 10 percent of their accumulated subsidized federal loans) and the Global Pathways Scholarship (designed to help students study away by adjusting financial aid based on any additional incremental cost of studying at another campus and the impact on the student's financial need, with a maximum award of \$4,000). Dr. Deike presented graphics illustrating the growth in the percentage of tuition and fees covered for students on average each year, which has risen from 34 percent in 1999 to 55 percent in 2013.

Dr. Deike then spoke to the question of student debt, emphasizing that his office remains keenly aware of the burden debt places on many families. He reported that the mean (average) student debt for graduating students with debt is \$30,683 and the median is \$26,885. If one looks instead at the loan debt of all graduating seniors, about half of the graduating seniors had no loans whatsoever, with the result that if all students are taken into account the mean loan is \$15,494 and the median loan is \$2,750, amounts that have declined over time. Dr. Deike then showed a graphic illustrating the cumulative debt for families who borrow, which showed a mean debt of \$68,786 and a median debt of \$51,035; and if family debt for all graduating seniors is considered, the mean debt is \$35,198 and the median debt is \$4,421. .

Dr. Deike said that as part of the admissions process, his office carefully discusses with families the financial investment they would be making in an NYU education. His goals are to assist families in achieving financial literacy so that they can make sound judgments while also impressing upon families that they should not make any decision until they have a financial aid package in front of them to review. Dr. Sexton reminded everyone that the admissions process is need-blind, so no one at NYU knows until the financial aid process post-acceptance what a student's financial need may be.

In response to a question, Dr. Deike noted that if a student's financial circumstances change, the aid package can be re-evaluated.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND POST-SANDY UPDATE**

Executive Vice President for Operations Alison Leary reported on emergency preparedness at the University. She described post-Sandy improvements in communications with students, faculty, and staff, which include the use of email, social media, and text messaging, as well as non-electronic back-up methods of communicating such as bulletin boards in NYU buildings. In terms of facilities, improvements include the installation of 48-hour emergency lighting in all residential

buildings where there are no windows in the hallways and stairwells, back-up power for house loads in WSV and WSW, and generators in Brittany residence hall, Gramercy Green residence hall, Palladium dining hall, and Lafayette residence hall. There are also plans to create a commuter lounge at Hayden Hall. Her office has also been striving to raise community awareness and preparation, through such methods as the Be Safe campaign and website and the distribution of convenience kits known as "PACKs" to faculty residences along with a means to self-identify one's need for special assistance in an emergency. Ms. Leary's office also has expanded food services available in emergencies, and she noted that there is already a robust program ensuring that visiting nurses and neighbors are in place in case of emergency.

Ms. Leary described the restructuring of the Public Safety department that is in process and outlined the priorities of the Department of Public Safety for 2014, which include: integrating NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering security services; completing the Department's restructuring; conducting the first active shooter response exercise with the NYPD; updating the Command Center technology and operations; partnering with the NYPD to reduce larcenies on campus; updating and expanding response protocols and training to improve preparedness and response; establishing a community engagement safety advice committee; completing evacuation plans for global sites; and initiating an accreditation effort with the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators

#### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT & PRESIDENT'S QUESTION TIME**

Dr. Sexton deferred the report of the President until the next meeting of the Senate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Brier  
Secretary