



**Minutes of a Stated Meeting of the
Senate of New York University
November 8, 2018**

A stated meeting of the Senate of New York University was held on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at 9 a.m., in the Colloquium Room of the Global Center for Academic and Spiritual Life, 238 Thompson Street. The meeting was convened with President Andrew Hamilton in the chair.

Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council (“T-FSC”) Members Present: Wen Ling (Chair), Sylvain Cappell, Sonia Das, Caroline Dorsen (for Jacquelyn Taylor), Fabienne Doucet, Nick Economides, Stephen Figlewski, Phyllis Frankl, David Irving, Alex Jassen, Angela Kamer, Robert Lapiner, Michail Maniatakos, Marilyn Nonken (for Arvind Rajagopal), Dara Regaignon, Carol Reiss (for Jim Uleman), Andrew Romig, Robert Shapley, Paul Smoke, Arthur Tannenbaum (for Amanda Watson), Susan Waltzman, and Judith Zelikoff (for Gwendolyn Quinn).

Full-Time Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council (“C-FSC”) Members Present: Mary Killilea (Chair), Lauren Davis, Angela De Bartolo, Michael Ferguson, John Gershman, Sam Howard-Spink, Scott Illingworth, Leila Jahangiri, Kirk James, Mitchell Joachim, Jung Kim, Tommy Lee, Laura Leone, Noelle Molé Liston, Robin Mitnick, Ken Nielsen (by telephone for Deepak Unnikrishnan), Maria Patterson, Vincent Renzi, Antonios Saravanos, Larry Slater, Xingyu Wang (by telephone), Beverly Watkins, Heidi White, and Ethan Youngerman.

Student Senators Council (“SSC”) Members Present: Hüsniye Çöğür (Chair), Bayan Abubakr, Mike Avgerinos, Rawan Dareer (for Sara Pan Algarra), Neha Dembla, Natalie Harris, Riazul Islam (for Dan Mageau), Kosar Kosar, Rachel Law, Amanda Lawson, Saman Marji, Victor Markhoff, David Moosmann, Shannon Morgan, Gladwin Osakwe (for Joel Urena), Beth Pontes (for Celine Chong), Clare Russell, Edin Thornton, Quentin Turner, Christopher VanDemark, Varsha Yerasi, and Dina Yohanes.

Deans Council Members Present: Dominic Brewer (Chair), Charles Bertolami, Thomas Carew, Mehmet Darakcioglu (for Susanne Wofford), Allyson Green, Susan Greenbaum, Phillip Harper, Cheryl Heulton, Randy Hertz (for Trevor Morrison), Gene Jarrett, Elena Piercy (for Rangarajan Sundaram), Erin Potter (for Geeta Menon), David Schachter (for Sherry Glied), Michael Stoller (for H. Austin Booth), and Eileen Sullivan-Marx.

Administrative Management Council (“AMC”) Members Present: Michael McCaw (Chair), Katrina Denney (for Juan Tie), Regina Drew, Carrie Meconis, Carolyn Ritter, Katie Santo, and Pamela Stewart.

University Administration Members Present: Lisa Coleman, Martin Dorph, Katherine Fleming, Andrew Hamilton, and Terrance Nolan.

President Hamilton welcomed members of the Senate to the meeting.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the October 4, 2018 Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the October 4, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs Committee Report

Arthur Tannenbaum, Public Affairs Committee Chair, asked the Senate to consider the resolution regarding the date of Commencement that was included with the Senate's materials. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution passed unanimously:

WHEREAS, the University Bylaws state that the Senate will determine the time, place, and manner of the University's Commencement Exercises; and

WHEREAS, the Rules of Procedure of the University Senate provide that the Senate Public Affairs Committee shall be concerned with matters relating to the timing and location of the Commencement exercises.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Public Affairs Committee, the 2019 All-University Commencement Exercises will take place on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 in Yankee Stadium. Accordingly, Grad Alley will take place on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Student Senators Council

SSC Chair Hüsniye Çöğür reported that the Student Government Assembly (SGA) recently voted to stop using SGA allocated funds to purchase food from vendors that are invested in the prison industrial complex. The SSC also recently passed a resolution asking the University to take further steps to reduce its carbon footprint. In addition, Ms. Çöğür reported that a resolution was introduced to divest from companies that violate human rights. The SSC is also working with the Student Health Center in an effort to improve resources for mental wellness.

Administrative Management Council

AMC Chair Michael McCaw referred to his written report distributed to the Senate in advance of the meeting. He highlighted the AMC Thanksgiving Food Drive and encouraged members of the Senate to participate by donating items online or at the numerous drop-off locations across campus.

FRESHMAN CLASS REPORT

First Year Student Update

President Hamilton introduced MJ Knoll-Finn, Senior Vice President of Enrollment Management, to give an overview of the profile of the first-year class and an update on student success initiatives.

Ms. Knoll-Finn reported that NYU received nearly 72,000 applications for undergraduate admission to the New York campus for Fall 2018, which was more than any other private university in the United States. In addition, she said that the University has seen a 42% increase in Early Decision 1 applications received for Fall 2019 admission.

Ms. Knoll-Finn then presented data showing trends over time related to undergraduate applications and admissions. NYU has become more selective in its admissions as its acceptance rate dropped from 35% in 2014 to 20% in 2018. NYU's yield rate, or the percent of students who were offered admission and chose to enroll at NYU, has increased from 33% in 2014 to 43% in 2018. Ms. Knoll-Finn noted that NYU is also seeing positive trends in the quality and diversity of its students.

Student Success Update

Ms. Knoll-Finn next gave an update on NYU's efforts around student success. She said that NYU met its goal of moving from 93% to 94% first-year retention in Fall 2018 (approximately 50 students). Initiatives that were implemented in the 2017-2018 academic year included offering financial aid appeals, conducting exit surveys with students who decide to leave NYU, aligning leave of absence policies across schools, doing personalized outreach to students, looking at the de-enrollment process, and creating a student success platform called NYU Connect. Ms. Knoll-Finn said that NYU was able to increase the retention rate for students who were in payment arrears and were being considered for de-enrollment to 81.7% in Fall 2018, up from 69.8% in Fall 2017. In addition, the enrollment office evaluated financial aid packages and identified ways to proactively support students with financial need.

Next, Ms. Knoll-Finn described NYU Connect, which is a student success platform launched in September that enables faculty, advisors, and student services professionals to identify students in need, collaborate with colleagues, and ensure students get connected to campus resources. She explained how NYU Connect allows for data from various sources to be compiled into a cohesive platform.

For the 2018-2019 academic year, Ms. Knoll-Finn said the Office of Enrollment Management is partnering with University Development and Alumni Relations, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Wasserman Center for Career Development to create stronger engagement between alumni and current students. In addition, they are enhancing support for student veterans; examining midterm grades; identifying ways to create a stronger community and sense of belonging, particularly for first-year students; and supporting undergraduate research.

Ms. Knoll-Finn invited questions and comments from members of the Senate. There was discussion about the NYU Connect platform, including granting access for University administrators, as well as what information can be seen by the various users and balancing the benefit of having a cohesive student profile with privacy concerns. Ms. Knoll-Finn said that she would ask Assistant Vice President for Student Success Bernie Savarese to look at what information can be seen by whom and evaluate what would be most beneficial for the student. The Senate also discussed additional factors that can impact student success, including connecting admitted students with campus communities that align with their interests before they arrive, helping students who were homeschooled to adapt to the University environment, providing meal assistance for students struggling with food security, and providing accommodations for students with disabilities. There was also discussion about financial support for students, and it was noted that as part of NYU's affordability initiative, students have free access to Scholly, a search tool that aggregates information about available scholarships. Students also have access to iGrad, which provides other resources for managing finances. Finally, Ms. Knoll-Finn said that the Office of Enrollment Management's Diversity Committee will be looking at the results of the Being@NYU assessment to help inform further student success initiatives.

President Hamilton thanked Ms. Knoll-Finn for her presentation.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Hamilton acknowledged the upsetting atmosphere and tone of recent weeks leading up to the midterm election that included divisive rhetoric and terrible vitriol and actual acts of violence, several motivated by racial and anti-Semitic animus. He reminded the Senate of the role of a university community to provide an example for the world by valuing civility in debate and through its core mission of scholarship and research. In terms of the election results, President Hamilton noted that it will take time to understand the specific impact of the election outcomes on higher education issues but that NYU will continue to advocate for issues that are important to the NYU community, from Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and restrictive immigration and visa issues, to support for robust student financial aid and research budgets. He said that we will be doing this through our own efforts as well as in collaboration with the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the American Council on Education (ACE).

President Hamilton added that the anticipated "gridlock" in Congress – with the House

of Representatives controlled by one party and the Senate and White House another – probably portends difficulty in passing a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, but since the higher education community had serious concerns about some versions of that legislation, this may be the best outcome for now.

President Hamilton expressed his concern about recent reports that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is planning to rollback federal recognition of transgender and gender non-binary individuals by seeking to define sex as either male or female and determined at birth. He said that NYU has written to the HHS Secretary to express strong opposition to this proposal, and he assured members of the Senate that NYU has no plans to change its policies and practices with respect to restroom usage or preferred name usage.

President Hamilton reported that the NYU Prison Education Program, which provides men incarcerated at Wallkill Correctional Facility with an opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts Degree from NYU in Liberal Studies, recently had its second graduation ceremony with three graduates. He shared highlights from the celebration, which he described as powerful, joyous, and impactful.

President Hamilton said that academic leadership at NYU Langone Health has been focused on the issue of a potential shortage of primary care physicians and that, as a result, NYU has taken steps to establish a new medical school that would offer a three-year program focused on training physicians in primary care. The new school will be located in Long Island at NYU Winthrop. President Hamilton reported that the first steps of the accreditation process have been completed, but there are still several steps remaining, including state approval.

President Hamilton referenced the recent announcement that Amazon plans to split its second headquarters between Long Island City, Queens and Arlington, VA. He said that New York City and State officials included NYU in its bid to choose NYC, making the case that strong universities like NYU can provide the talent and expertise Amazon is looking for and be part of efforts to advance workforce development, executive education, and broadening the employee pipeline.

Since the last Senate meeting, President Hamilton reported that NYU Stern School of Business Professor Paul Romer was awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics, making him one of four Nobel Prize winners at NYU. In addition, for the first time both NYU's men's and women's soccer teams will be competing in the NCAA Division III championship.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Graham
Director, Office of the Secretary