Minutes of a Stated Meeting of the
Senate of New York University
March 25, 2021

A stated meeting of the Senate of New York University was held on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by videoconference. The meeting was convened with President Andrew Hamilton in the chair.

Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council ("T-FSC") Members Present:
Darcey Merritt (Chair), Mark Alter (for Fabienne Doucet), Chris Barker, Andrew Battista, Sylvain Cappell, Richard Cole (for Jane Friedman), Salo Coslovsky, Francisco de Leon, Rochelle Dreyfuss, Nick Economides, André Fenton, Alexander Geppert, Anindya Ghose, Andras Gyorgy, Ryan Hartman, David Irving, Guillermina Jasso (for Sonia Das), Anja Jauernig, Angela Kamer, Wen Ling, Allen Mincer, Marilyn Nonken, Niyati Parekh, Sara Pursley, Gwendolyn Quinn, Tamar Schlick, Joel Schuman (for Zhe Chen), Carol Sternhell, Amy Stimpfel, Robert JC Young, Alejandro Velasco (for Stephen Duncombe), and Judith Zelikoff.

Full-Time Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council ("C-FSC") Members Present:
Ethan Youngerman (Chair), Gay Abel-Bey, Kelly Bridges (for Marlene McCarty), Angela De Bartolo, Cora de Leon, Chris Dickey, Bruce Gelb, Gabrielle Gold-Von Simson, Caran Hartsfield (for Scott Illingworth), Steven Iams (for Yanyue Yuan), Leila Jahangiri, Mary Killilea, Beth Latimer, Noelle Molé Liston, Sylvia Maier, Ashley Maynor, Ken Nielsen, Maria Patterson, Shaline Rao, Vincent Renzi, Scott Taitel (for John Gershman), Agnes Tourin, Xingyu Wang, and Heidi White.

Student Senators Council ("SSC") Members Present: Nicky Nenkov (Chair), Ayham Adawi, Mehrin Ali, Tzivia Appleman, Gavin Arneson, Spencer Asch, Christina Beck, Jade Cegielski, Paul Ibuzor, Samuel Ison, Nayab Khan, Rachel Jiwon Kim, Shamon Lawrence, Isabelle Link-Levy, Abby McConnell, Diego Quintana Licona, Ashish Sabade, Deets Sharma, Mira Silveira, Cole Swartz, and Blake Whyte.

Deans Council Members Present: Eileen Sullivan-Marx (Chair), Susan Antón, Charles Bertolami, H. Austin Booth, Susan Greenbaum, Cheryl Healton, Randy Hertz (for Trevor Morrison), Gene Jarrett, Jack Knott, Antonio Merlo, Julie Mostov, Elena Piercy (for Rangarajan Sundaram), David Schachter (for Sherry Glied), Karen Shimakawa (for Allyson Green), and Susanne Wofford.

Administrative Management Council ("AMC") Members Present: Michael McCaw (Chair), Christina Averinos, Cassandra Bizzaro, Regina Drew, Carrie Meconis, Katie Santo, and Joseph Sierra.

University Administration Members Present: Sean Corlett (for Lisa Coleman), Georgina Dopico (for Katherine Fleming), Martin Dorph, Andrew Hamilton, and Aisha Oliver-Staley.
President Hamilton welcomed members of the Senate to the meeting.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2021 Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

President Hamilton introduced Darcey Merritt, Vice President of the Senate and T-FSC Chair, to report on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee (“SEC”). Dr. Merritt presented the proposed schedule of Senate meetings for next academic year as recommended by the SEC. She said that the schedule continues with meetings on Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution passed with 86 in favor and 2 abstentions.

WHEREAS, the Senate Rules of Procedure state that the Senate shall meet monthly during the months of October, November, December, February, March, and April in accordance with a schedule of dates and times adopted by the Senate upon recommendation of the Executive Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the below schedule of Senate meetings for academic year 2021-2022 is hereby adopted.

Thursday, October 7, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET

Thursday, November 4, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET

Thursday, December 2, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET

Thursday, February 24, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET
Thursday, March 31, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET

Thursday, April 28, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. ET

COUNCIL REPORTS

Administrative Management Council

AMC Chair Michael McCaw reported that the AMC Community Service Committee is hosting two virtual book fairs to benefit PS 38 in Brooklyn and PS 386 in the Bronx, and he encouraged members of the Senate to participate. Mr. McCaw also expressed his appreciation to Executive Vice President Martin Dorph and others for speaking at a COVID-19 forum held by the AMC in February and to President Andrew Hamilton for participating in the AMC’s general meeting in March.

Student Senators Council

SSC Chair Nicky Nenkov reported that the SSC has been working on three resolutions, which are now with the Senate Financial Affairs Committee. The resolutions address student caregivers, financial burdens, and food insecurity. They said that the SSC will be closely monitoring the next three-day weekend because there have been disappointing reports of students having to do work over the last three-day weekend. They also highlighted the LGBTQ+ campaign and encouraged members of the Senate to consider donating.

Full-Time Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council

C-FSC Chair Ethan Youngerman reported that the C-FSC met on February 25th and on March 23rd. Pertaining to the Fall semester, C-FSC committees are examining everything from matters of pedagogical concern (such as blended attendance) to quality of life issues like commuting. The C-FSC passed recommendations on the School of Global Public Health Policies and Procedures for Reappointment and Promotion for Full-Time Continuing Contract Faculty. He noted that C-FSC senators also expressed disappointment with stories they have heard from students about essays and quizzes being due during the recent long weekend and expressed hope to work with colleagues to make the next long break more restorative for everyone.

BRIEFINGS TO THE SENATE

Public Health Update

President Hamilton introduced Carlo Ciotoli, Associate Vice President, NYU Student Health and Executive Director, Student Health Center. Dr. Ciotoli said that Europe has
seen increasing COVID-19 case counts since mid-February and that the reason appears to be the lifting of restrictions and spread of variants. He noted that in the United States, case counts went down after the holidays, but then plateaued in many states and that some states have seen a recent increase in case counts. Locally, the majority of samples testing positive have been the New York variant, which public officials consider a variant of interest, but not yet a variant of concern. Dr. Ciotoli reported that the available vaccines do appear to have an impact on this variant. He stated that the University continues to encourage mask wearing and social distancing as well as getting a vaccine as soon as possible. He noted that governmental allowances for indoor dining recently increased to 50% capacity, while the CDC has said that opening up of dining has been shown to lead to higher death counts. He remarked that the University has seen this phenomenon in contact tracing efforts – often students who have tested positive did so as a result of having a meal with someone indoors. In terms of vaccination, Dr. Ciotoli said that all three currently available vaccines seem effective at preventing severe disease. The University has been pressing to get its own stock of vaccine and hopes that this will happen in the coming weeks. He advised that NYU community members should hold on to their vaccination cards as well as take a picture of the card. Recent polls have shown that vaccine hesitancy is diminishing with surveys reflecting that 20% of individuals report that they would not get a vaccine or would only get the vaccine if it is mandated. Dr. Ciotoli also noted that the CDC recently came out with post-vaccination guidelines and continues to advise against international and domestic travel. He said that based on current modeling it is unclear whether the country will experience another spike in case counts in the spring.

President Hamilton invited questions and comments from members of the Senate. The Senate engaged in discussion, including about capacity calculations for the Fall; guidelines for vaccinated individuals; data on vaccine hesitancy within the NYU community; and the prospects for re-opening the dining halls in the Fall. President Hamilton noted that the University would continue with its current set of protocols for the rest of the semester, which have become even more important as the rest of the world is starting to lift restrictions.

Next, President Hamilton introduced John Beckman, Senior Vice President for Public Affairs and Strategic Communications. Mr. Beckman noted that he would be speaking as a representative of the University’s COVID communications team, which was put in place to support the work of the preparation and response team that Dr. Ciotoli leads. He said that the communications team’s efforts have involved the web as well as social media. Mr. Beckman stated that the team’s first task was to normalize and familiarize community members with safety protocols, mentioning in particular the signage that is prevalent across the University. The team’s goal has been to get the NYU community to embrace safety and health protocols as embodied in the Keep Each Other Safe campaign. The team set up a primary webpage as the repository of all of the guidance that has been provided. Mr. Beckman noted that the communications team decided that it was important to divide their emails into different categories, which vary in length based on the type of update. Certain emails touch upon recent developments while
other two or three paragraph emails provide quick answers to questions that have come up. Recently, the team has been focused on promoting vaccinations. Mr. Beckman said that during the Spring semester, the team has been working on refreshing its messages from the Fall, encouraging everyone to keep the same level of conscientiousness and community-minded behavior. Looking ahead, Mr. Beckman noted that future communications will highlight facts about vaccines in infographic presentations; include short videos on the efficacy of vaccines; and present responses from NYU community members as to what they are looking forward to in the future. In conclusion, he remarked that he looks forward to sunsetting the NYU Returns campaign.

**Academic Planning**

President Hamilton introduced Deputy Provost C. Cybele Raver for an update on academic planning. Dr. Raver observed that the University is in the home stretch of the semester. She noted that courses are being listed for Summer 2021 and that the Provost’s Office is in the midst of supporting students who took a lighter course load in the Fall. She mentioned that Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs Ryan Poynter sent an email to over 350 academic advisors to highlight a new summer website resource. Dr. Raver said that for the Fall semester, the University is focused on the twin principles of public health and academic excellence of the highest quality and is planning for as much in-person instruction as possible. She indicated that planning decisions for the Fall semester are based on a variety of signs and signals: Dr. Fauci’s cautious optimism; recent changes in federal, state and local guidelines; faculty input regarding the need to balance work and family; student input about mental health concerns; and a general lack of evidence that classroom settings are a significant source of COVID transmission. Dr. Raver remarked that the Fall semester will mark a return to almost the level of pre-COVID in-person instruction and that faculty will be expected to resume classroom teaching. She also mentioned the need to think about international students should they face obstacles in coming back to New York City.

The Senate engaged in discussion, including about the degree to which the University will have blended classes in the Fall semester; the timing of Fall semester registration and the impact of that timing on the ability of students to get refunds for summer courses; reports that students were assigned work over the recent three-day weekend; and new capacity calculations regarding the use of space at the University. Dr. Raver noted that NYU will have to look at new capacity capabilities and that she expects the Fall semester to reflect an “adjusted normal” where we will be able to allow for substantially more capacity than we currently do, but it is unclear exactly what the applicable number will be.

**Financial Update**

President Hamilton introduced Stephanie Pianka, Senior Vice President for Finance and Budget and Chief Financial Officer, who provided a financial update. Ms. Pianka expressed appreciation for the efforts of schools and units to control expenses, which
has required the work of all fiscal officers. Currently, she projects that the University will end up somewhere between breakeven on the year and approximately $100 million below budget. She indicated that COVID has had a cost impact of approximately $270 million, particularly due to de-densification and lack of dining revenue. Ms. Pianka stated that there have also been costs of approximately $130 million due to NYU Returns efforts, such as testing and safety protocols, resulting in a total impact of $400 million. However, she said that the University has been able to offset that amount by about $300 million through cost cutting efforts. Ms. Pianka concluded her remarks by describing three separate funding bills that the federal government has passed. Under the CARES Act, NYU was awarded approximately $25 million, which was based on the University’s size and the number of Pell eligible students at the University. She noted that NYU pledged 100% of this to student aid. In December 2020, the federal government passed a second coronavirus relief package, under which NYU was awarded $37.4 million, and NYU again pledged 100% of that amount to students. Finally, under the American Rescue Plan, Ms. Pianka said that NYU expects to receive $65 million.

**Enrollment Update**

President Hamilton introduced MJ Knoll-Finn, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management, who provided an enrollment update. Ms. Knoll-Finn began by noting that she was thinking about the Asian community at NYU and that her thoughts go out to everyone given recent violent acts in the country. As for enrollment, she remarked on the significant diversity of the application class. She said that her office has worked on making the summer term an opportunity for students and she expressed her hope that students will take advantage of that opportunity. Ms. Knoll-Finn indicated that the University now has a new comprehensive summer webpage, which offers students an easy way to understand what will be offered over the summer. She also mentioned the availability of flexible grants for use toward summer credits, for which approximately 6,000 students qualify. Her office has been reaching out to students to make sure they know about these grants. Ms. Knoll-Finn provided data from the NYU Connect service, which allows administrators and faculty to connect with students: there was a 112% increase in Kudos (673 to 1426) regarding student performance and an 11% increase in one-on-one meetings. She noted that 92% of students plan to return in the Fall semester. Finally, Ms. Knoll-Finn said that over 6,000 students have received direct funding in connection with federal stimulus relief.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Hamilton indicated that Chief Sustainability Officer Cecil Sheib will give a sustainability report at the next meeting and that he would ask Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life Linda Mills to report on the situation for international students returning to New York in the Fall. He observed that NYU’s Go Local program was likely to be extended to the Fall semester. President Hamilton expressed his appreciation for the work done by everyone over the past year. He echoed Ms. Knoll-Finn’s comments about solidarity with the Asian community and
said that he has put out statements expressing that NYU stands together with members of its Asian community in repudiating those who fan the fires of hate. He also said that our hearts go out to those affected by the recent mass shooting in Colorado. President Hamilton noted that Student Affairs staff has been reaching out to members of the NYU community who are from these states to let them know about support that is available to them.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
William Miller
Associate General Counsel