Minutes of a Stated Meeting of the Senate of New York University
March 31, 2022

A stated meeting of the Senate of New York University was held on Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 9:00 am, in the Colloquium Room of the Global Center for Academic and Spiritual Life, 238 Thompson Street with some members attending 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), Shara Bailey, Chris Barker, Beth Bechky (for Nick Economides), Ryan Branski (for Judith Zelikoff), Sylvain Cappell, Jill Conte (for Andrew Battista), Daniel Fleming (for Wendy Suzuki), Siddharth Garg, Anindya Ghose, Andras Gyorgy, David Irving, Wen Ling, Ritty Lukose, Danil Makarov, Qing Miao, Geoffrey Miller, Liam Murphy (for Frank Upham), Christopher Park, Sara Pursley, John Ricci, Lena Scheen (for Ayşe Baltacıoğlu-Brammer), Tamar Schlick, Donna Shelley, Amy Stimpfel, Leif Weatherby (for Ayşe Baltacıoğlu-Brammer), and Robert JC Young.

Full-Time Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council (“C-FSC”) Members Present: Ethan Youngerman (Chair), Gay Abel-Bey, Preneet Brar, Eva Chalas, Lauren Davis (for Scott Illingworth), Cora de Leon, Karyn Faber (for Chris Dickey), Bruce Gelb, James Grendell, Karen Hornick, Leila Jahangiri, Mary Killilea, Beth Latimer, Noelle Molé Liston, Sylvia Maier, Ashley Maynor, Marlene McCarty, Robin Mitnick, Ken Nielsen, Maria Patterson, Vincent Renzi, Silvia Spivakovsky, Scott Taitel, Agnes Tourin, Heidi White, and Andrew Williams.

Student Senators Council (“SSC”) Members Present: Mehrin Ali (Chair), Tzivia Appleman (for Ana Roudebush), Christina Beck, Ryan Carney (for Cameron Grant), Megan Chen, Katarina Demos, Nick Felber, Ron Hall, Noa Kimura, Shamon Lawrence, JiJi Lee, Demetri Lopez, Ana Maria-Radu, Gisele Martin, Tien Nguyen, Mahima Sharda, Mira Silveira, Aniket Somwanshi, Charles Theiner, Shawn Thibault, Jay Thompson, Christopher Van Demark, and Jessie Wang.

Deans Council Members Present: Sherry Glied (Chair), Charles Bertolami, H. Austin Booth, Sean Clarke (Eileen Sullivan-Marx), Allyson Green, Randy Hertz (for Trevor Morrison), Angie Kamath, Lynne Kiorpes, Jack Knott, Jelena Kovačević, Antonio Merlo, Julie Mostov, Elena Piercy (for Rangarajan Sundaram), Steven Shelov, Mark Siegal (for Matthew Santirocco), and Susanne Wofford.

Administrative Management Council (“AMC”) Members Present: Michael McCaw (Chair), Cassandra Bizzaro, Regina Drew, Daniel Esquivel, Norma Kenigsberg, Carrie Meconis, and Joseph Sierra.

University Administration Members Present: Lisa Coleman, Martin Dorph, Katherine Fleming, Andrew Hamilton, and Aisha Oliver-Staley.
T-FSC Members Absent: Shady Amin, Zhe Chen, Salo Coslovsky, Jane Friedman, Ryan Hartman, Anja Jauernig, Ying Lu, Marilyn Nonken, Gwendolyn Quinn, Carol Sternhell, and Thomas Wisniewski.

C-FSC Members Absent: Christopher Gharibo, Jung Kim, Shaline Rao, and Yanyue Yuan.


AMC Members Absent: None.

University Administration Members Absent: None.

President Hamilton welcomed members of the Senate to the meeting.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the February 24, 2022 Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the February 24, 2022 meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Standards Committee

President Hamilton introduced Norma Kenigsberg, Co-Chair of the Community Standards Committee. Ms. Kenigsberg referred to the written summary in the materials distributed in advance of the meeting. She provided an overview of the Community Standards Committee’s review of the NYU Guidelines Regarding Protest and Dissent (1991), together with the Committee’s recommendation that the guidelines be repealed. Ms. Kenigsberg explained that a repeal would not constitute a substantive change in the University’s approach to protest and dissent, but rather, would streamline and consolidate applicable University policies and remove outdated information.

Craig Jolley, Director of Student Conduct and Community Standards, further noted that robust conversations about speech, dissent and conflict are continuing across the University.
President Hamilton invited questions and comments from members of the Senate regarding the proposed repeal. One Senator indicated that repealing the guidelines would be premature, expressing his feeling of the importance of having an affirmative statement issued by the Senate regarding the University’s commitment to discourse and the right to protest and dissent, as well as an administrative framework for how that would be carried forward. Ms. Kenigsberg responded that the sentiment of the guidelines is already present in other policies. Mr. Jolley mentioned that the Committee has been discussing the proposed repeal for more than seven months, and further noted that as the guidelines refer to offices and positions that no longer exist at the University, there is realistically no practical application for its stated procedures.

Following this discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Resolution to Repeal the Guidelines Regarding Protest and Dissent was approved, with one objection. The resolution is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

Financial Affairs Committee

President Hamilton introduced Stephanie Pianka, Senior Vice President for Finance and Budget and Chief Financial Officer, to report on behalf of the Senate Financial Affairs Committee.

As part of the Senate Financial Affairs Committee’s March 24 meeting, the Committee invited the Student Government Assembly (“SGA”) to present a resolution to address housing affordability for students. The Committee requested an estimate of the cost to implement the recommendations put forth in the resolution, and recommended that the SGA work directly with Student Affairs leadership to understand what would be involved in implementing the proposals. Following further discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to postpone a vote on whether or not to recommend the resolution to the Senate to allow time for the SGA to provide an estimated budgetary impact to the Committee.

President Hamilton thanked Ms. Pianka for her report and invited questions and comments from members of the Senate. The Senators asked questions and engaged in discussion, including with respect to the process for understanding budgetary and non-monetary impacts that the proposals would have, as well as the roles of the SGA, the Committee, and Student Affairs in any such process.

Questions Regarding Committee Reports

President Hamilton invited questions and comments from members of the Senate regarding the Standing Committee reports that were included in the materials distributed in advance of the meeting.
COUNCIL REPORTS

Student Senators Council

SSC Chair Mehrin Ali reported that the SSC held a town hall with President Hamilton on March 3, where the main focuses were on the recent spike in anti-Asian violence, supporting Ukrainian and Russian students, and safety on campus. Ms. Ali also summarized a letter of support adopted by the SSC that has been sent to the Senate Academic Affairs Committee for review, which concerns the adoption of open educational resources and urges instructors to increase the use of materials readily available via public domain or under open license in order to reduce the cost for students to enroll. Also at its March 3 meeting, the SSC passed a divestment resolution, which has been referred to the Senate Financial Affairs Committee. The SSC also passed a resolution concerning changes to its internal election procedures handbook. Finally, Ms. Ali noted that the SSC has collaborated with a number of departments and bodies on campus, including Student Affairs and Global Inclusion, Diversity, and Strategic Innovation, to present a broad range of programming in the past month, such as spaces for Ukrainian and Asian students, and town halls.

Administrative Management Council

AMC Chair Michael McCaw reported on highlights from the AMC’s most recent meeting, including a presentation by Carlo Ciotoli, Vice President for Campus Health, regarding recent campus health guidelines and a presentation by Ms. Ali and Amira Shouman from the NYU Islamic Center regarding how to best support Muslim students during Ramadan. Mr. McCaw expressed thanks to President Hamilton for his annual engagement with the AMC as part of their town hall. He also noted that the AMC Community Service Committee is sponsoring its first virtual diaper drive. Mr. McCaw concluded with a brief discussion of AMC’s engagement with other Senate councils regarding a proposal requesting increased AMC representation on the Senate.

Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council

T-FSC Chair Darcey Merritt reported that the T-FSC’s recent meeting included an acknowledgment of the events in Ukraine and encouragement of members to be mindful of those in the University community who are impacted. The meeting also included an update on COVID protocols and discussion of relaxed mask mandates, as well as remarks from Amira Shouman from the NYU Islamic Center to help the Council understand how faculty can support Muslim students, staff and administrators during Ramadan. Dr. Merritt concluded with a summary of the Personnel Policies and Tenure Modifications Committee’s recent work on reviewing the NYU Long Island School of Medicine guidelines for promotion on the tenure track or tenure, as well as the Committee’s upcoming work on the pending Middle States Commission on Higher Education accreditation review in the fall. The Senators asked questions and engaged in discussion, including with respect to the timing of recommendations for tenure promotion at the NYU Long Island School of Medicine.
Full-Time Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council

C-FSC Chair Ethan Youngerman reported that at its March 29 meeting, the Council welcomed Mary Signor and Shakera Turi from the Office of Equal Opportunity and had a productive conversation about investigative policies and procedures. In addition, Ms. Ali and representatives from the NYU Islamic Center were present to discuss ways to support Muslim students during Ramadan. Finally, President Hamilton, Executive Vice President Martin Dorph and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Georgina Dopico were present to discuss faculty concerns regarding expenses, classroom and class time assignments and COVID.

Questions Regarding Council Reports

President Hamilton invited questions and comments from members of the Senate regarding the Council reports that were included in the materials distributed in advance of the meeting.

BRIEFINGS TO THE SENATE

Public Health Update

President Hamilton introduced Carlo Ciotoli, Vice President for Campus Health. Dr. Ciotoli described the evolution of how we have been looking at the public health landscape over the past two years, as much has changed with the availability of vaccines, antivirals, monoclonal antibodies, and testing. Dr. Ciotoli noted that the CDC took these developments into account in moving away from focusing on case counts, and toward a composite metric that includes case counts but also takes into consideration hospitalization rates and hospital capacity in determining whether a location is low, medium or high risk. Dr. Ciotoli explained that New York City, along with 92% of the country, is currently low risk, and as such, the general guidance is to keep up-to-date with vaccination and get tested if symptomatic.

In applying the general guidance to the University’s specific setting, NYU has started to loosen some restrictions on campus. Dr. Ciotoli emphasized that a phased-in approach to loosening mask restrictions is most appropriate for the University, and to that end, the mask mandate has been lifted in optional settings but remains in place in obligatory spaces (classrooms, offices). The University is also now allowing performing arts students to perform in front of audiences without masks. With regard to the Daily Screener, Dr. Ciotoli explained that it allows the University to keep track of vaccination compliance, and vaccination is a critical part of the University’s safety plan. Meanwhile, the University is working toward a more simplified process for welcoming visitors on campus. Dr. Ciotoli concluded by providing an update on the FDA’s approval of Pfizer’s and Moderna’s second booster for those over 50 years old, noting that the University has vaccine available at the Student Health Center.
The Senators asked questions and engaged in discussion, including with respect to the process for guest screenings, planning with regard to graduation-related events and gatherings, the impact of ending federal funding for COVID testing on the University, the communication process to Campus Safety regarding relaxation of protocols, and booster requirements for graduation events.

**Global Programs Update on Ukraine**

President Hamilton introduced Josh Taylor, Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Programs and Mobility Services. Mr. Taylor opened by acknowledging the difficulty of the situation in Ukraine for students from the region. He then provided an overview of what the University is doing to support our current students, including meeting with students, working with students to ensure that they have summer housing if there are concerns about traveling home, making emergency funding available, and working with students on their financial aid packages and any logistical challenges to paying bills and enrolling in classes given restrictions on banks and financial systems.

Mr. Taylor continued with a summary of new programs and initiatives, including creating a one-year undergraduate program for Ukrainian students at NYU’s site in Prague in partnership with the Ukrainian Global University consortium of university presidents, fellowships at certain NYU global sites for faculty, scholars and researchers in Ukraine or who risk persecution elsewhere in the region, and identifying external funding sources to assist students and scholars in Ukraine and others who may be impacted by future global crises. The Senators asked questions and engaged in discussion, including with respect to the possibility of the University offering support by providing online offerings to Ukrainian students or hosting Ukrainian scientists in our labs on a temporary basis.

**Campus Safety Update**

President Hamilton introduced Fountain Walker, Vice President of Global Campus Safety, and Patricia McSteen, Senior Associate Vice President and Deputy of Global Campus Safety. Mr. Walker noted that as COVID restrictions relax, there is expected to be an increase in activity around campus and Washington Square Park generally, and Campus Safety has been engaging with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and the NYPD regularly, increasing foot patrols where students congregate, continuing to utilize private security contractors, and working with Facilities & Construction Management and Information Technology to increase camera surveillance.

Mr. Walker provided an overview of additional initiatives, including plans for a faculty engagement event, ensuring proper follow-up to the Bias Response Line, increasing Safe Ride capacity during peak times on a trial basis, and possible improvements to the Safe NYU app utilizing predictive analysis.

Dr. McSteen discussed Campus Safety’s objective of creating a more holistic approach to safety with more intentional relationships, including focusing on connecting with students and identifying ways that Campus Safety can enhance and contribute to an
overall sense of belonging, student engagement, and safety within the campus community.

The Senators asked questions and engaged in discussion, including with respect to follow-up on the Bias Response Line, and safety for campus ambassadors.

**Students Engaging with Each Other and Their Community**

President Hamilton introduced Jason Pina, Vice President for University Life and Global Engagement.

Dr. Pina commented on the need to support students, especially as we move out of the pandemic and into increased in-person interaction, in having difficult conversations on difficult subjects and finding effective ways to interact and engage with each other. He reflected on the strength of programming and support the University has provided for students around engaging with people with different viewpoints. Senators then viewed a video entitled “Our NYU Values.” Dr. Pina introduced Ms. Ali, who reflected on the video, its portrayal of what it looks like to navigate conflict, and her personal growth as a student and leader.

**Class of 2026 Admissions Update**

President Hamilton introduced MJ Knoll-Finn, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, who provided an update on the new admitted class. Ms. Knoll-Finn noted that the University had record-breaking application numbers, exceeding 105,000 applications, a 5% increase over last year. She noted that the applicant pool was extremely diverse, reflecting NYU’s status as a destination school for students who come from all different places and backgrounds. Ms. Knoll-Finn provided an overview of the admitted class, highlighting the low admit rate (12% overall, with the College of Arts and Science, Rory Meyers College of Nursing and Stern School of Business under 10%), geographic diversity, and representation from first generation college students, under-represented minorities, BIPOC students, international students, Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) students, Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) students, and students receiving Pell grants. Ms. Knoll-Finn concluded with an overview of upcoming admissions events and engagements.

**Ramadan on Campus: Best Practices to Support Muslim Students**

President Hamilton introduced Amira Shouman, Associate Director of the Islamic Center, and Chelsea Garbell, Interim Associate Director of Global Spiritual Life.

Ms. Shouman provided a general introduction to the practices of fasting students during Ramadan, as well as an overview of Ramadan programming at the Islamic Center, including hosting prayers, meetings, lectures, programs, and charitable efforts. She discussed ways in which the University can support Muslim community members during
Ramadan, including ensuring food availability and addressing food insecurity, and being mindful of employee hours and cognizant of the state of mind that employees may be in. Ms. Shouman also noted that there are increased safety concerns during Ramadan as students may be out late for prayers, and encouraged awareness of Safe Ride, Safe App, and other safety tools. Ms. Shouman concluded her presentation by noting that mental health can be a challenge during Ramadan, and encouraged compassion, acknowledgment, and understanding of students' observance and experience.

Ms. Garbell provided an overview of the University Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays, affirming NYU's support for students who need accommodations when their academic requirements and religious obligations conflict. Ms. Garbell discussed possible reasonable in-class accommodations, and outlined the process for student requests for accommodations. She further noted that professors can contact Global Spiritual Life for guidance around student requests.

Sustainability Update

President Hamilton introduced Cecil Scheib, Assistant Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer. Mr. Scheib highlighted the upcoming events in celebration of Earth Month, including Visions and Voices of a Healthy Planet, the Earth Day Street Fair, the Environmental and Racial Justice Network Summit, and the work of NYU's Public Health Ambassadors in helping students confront climate anxiety and climate despair. He concluded his remarks with an invitation to join the upcoming State of Sustainability address on April 21.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Hamilton noted that last year, NYU's research enterprise expended more than $1 billion across the University. He highlighted the success of University faculty and alumni at the recent Academy Awards, and summarized recent improvements in U.S. News and World Report rankings, including Steinhardt (Education), Engineering, and Public Health.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Hamilton invited questions and comments from members of the Senate.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Chiang
Associate General Counsel
RESOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

REPEAL OF GUIDELINES REGARDING PROTEST AND DISSENT

WHEREAS, Guidelines Regarding Protest and Dissent were approved by the University Senate at a meeting on May 2, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the Guidelines Regarding Protest and Dissent are outdated and either covered by other more current policies, including the NYU Student Conduct Policy (2021); Guidelines for Administrative Implementation of NYU Policies on Speech, Speakers, and Dissent (2018); and the Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedures for Students (2021), or no longer reflect current practice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Senate Community Standards Committee, the University Senate hereby repeals the Guidelines Regarding Protest and Dissent.