

The New School University Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

When: Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Where: 66 West 12th Street, Orozco Room, Rm. 712

Minutes from the eighth session of the 2009-10 Senate – Full Senate/Open Session from 8:30 am to 9:15 am, followed by Senators-Only/Closed session from 9:15 am to 10:00 am – Chaired by Ken Stevens

Present:

Members:

Elaine Abelson, Co-Chair, NSSR

Ken Stevens, Co-Chair, Parsons

Deidre Boyle, NSGS

Richard Boukas, Jazz

Alexandra Chasin, Lang

Peter Eisinger, Milano

Shoshanah Goldberg, Milano

Neil Gordon, Lang

Katarzyna Gruda, Parsons

Mara Kurtz, Parsons

David Lewis, Parsons

David Loeb, Mannes

Arien Mack, NSSR

David Marcinkowski, NSGS

Barbara Siegel, Parsons

Ju-Ying Song, Mannes

Nidhi Srinivas, Milano

Howard Steele, NSSR

Paula Stuttman, NSGS

Gary Vena, Drama

Aleksandra Wagner, NSGS

Peter Wheelwright, Parsons

Reggie Workman, Jazz

I-Hsien Wu, NSGS

Ex Officio:

Tim Marshall, Provost

Doris Suarez, Secretary of the Corporation

Ron Kassimir, Associate Provost

David Ford, Coordinator for Research and Faculty Development

I. Open Session

Welcome:

The meeting was opened by Ken Stevens. Stevens welcomed Provost Tim Marshall and excused President Kerrey, who was not able to attend the Senate meeting.

Remarks from the Provost:

A) Presidential Search Committee:

Provost Marshall reported that a Presidential Search Committee has been formed. This Committee includes three faculty representatives. Furthermore, in the search for the new President of TNS, the Board of Trustees has hired an outside research group, CFA, to assess the institution. CFA's research will include the formation of focus groups, as the Board of Trustees seeks to gain a deeper understanding of the University and the needs of the community. The focus groups will start in March, and the research shall be finalized by the end of April to be presented at the Board meeting on May 5, 2010. President Kerrey's term will end June 30, 2011; the goal is to have new President in place by July 1, 2011.

The Senate raised questions about the types and content of the questions addressed in these focus groups. Doris Suarez confirmed that the Board of Trustees would assist the research group in shaping the questions and designing the focus groups. The proposed focus groups have not been finalized yet, but shall include students, faculty, and NS community members and volunteers. Ken Stevens proposed that faculty could help in designing appropriate questions for the focus groups. David Loeb suggested that focus group members should have the opportunity to comment on any matters not addressed by general focus group questions. Doris Suarez stated that a general survey open to entire NS community is also being planned.

B) Research Funds for Divisions:

Provost Marshall reported that the provost office is in the process of building up funds for research support, across and overarching divisions. He confirmed that President Kerrey is supportive of increasing research funds and resources. More information will be announced soon.

C) Restructuring of the University:

Provost Marshall reported on the current University restructuring processes. Another meeting will be held to talk in more detail about the design of the proposed restructuring aspects, especially addressing the undergraduate programs and the proposed GPIA-Milano integration.

Milano-GPIA integration: a Task Force is currently working to assess collaboration and integration of both schools. The group has released a first report, addressing the needs and missions of each school, and creating a shared vision, proposing opportunities for growth and strength in an integrated form. This research is moving forward.

Undergraduate degree programs: a broader plan for integration across schools is being proposed, which considers the individual institutional visions and enhances

collaboration between the different programs. Issues addressed include vision and mission, community, social justice, curriculum, and governance. It aims to give each division the opportunity to focus on their individual core mission while enhancing cross-divisional collaboration and cross-enrollment opportunities for students to ultimately strengthen all NS undergraduate programs. A proposal will be open to faculty for review in the near future.

Questions from the Senate:

The Senate inquired about building an online course initiative. Provost Marshall stated that research is currently on hold, but that most likely two new positions will be proposed: one on a pedagogical basis, one on a technical basis.

Another question addressed the restructuring process of the provost office. Provost Marshall confirmed that the provost office is currently in the restructuring phase.

Questions were raised addressing the need for renovation, (re)design and furnishing various facilities across the University. It was agreed that the ambience and furnishing of University facilities has a great impact on students, faculty, community, and the overall impression of the University to visitors.

II. Closed Session

Election of the Secretary:

The Senate discussed the role and responsibilities of the position of Secretary. Deidre Boyle pointed out that the role has not been officially defined and that it is the responsibility of the Senate to define and shape this position. Ken Stevens addressed the importance of the formal documentation of the meetings as a communication tool to the public. Furthermore, it was pointed out that timeliness, accuracy, and considerations of confidentiality of the minutes are an important responsibility of the Secretary's position, as the minutes serve as the face of the Senate to the public. It was confirmed that Johanna Range, a Nonprofit Management graduate student at Milano, will take notes at the upcoming meetings until the end of this semester under the supervision of the Secretary. The Secretary will review and approve the minutes before they are sent to the senate for approval. Other suggested responsibilities of the Secretary include the role of an ombudsperson; the discussion about the responsibilities of the Secretary will be continued.

Nominations and Election:

Peter Eisinger nominated Shoshanah Goldberg for the position of Secretary. Deidre Boyle seconded her nomination. Shoshanah Goldberg was elected without opposition (one abstention).

Discussion of Remarks by the Provost:

The Senate discussed the role of the Senate in the restructuring process of the University. It acknowledged the Provost's openness to input provided by the Senate, but had concerns that information was brought to the Senate fairly late in the process. The Senate would like to have access to both the GPIA-Milano integration interim report and the undergraduate integration proposal in order to be able to provide feedback. It was agreed that another open session with Tim Marshall would be held to discuss further the integration of the schools.

Committee Reports:*Academic Planning Committee:*

Committee Chair David Lewis reported that the University Facilities Committee for the "University Center" project would meet on Thursday, February 4, 2010. Over the winter break, six stakeholder meetings were held, including the following user groups: fashion spaces user group, science labs user group, teaching spaces user group, library space user group, storage space user group, and campus services spaces user group (visit: <http://www.newschool.edu/luminis/ufc.html> to read more about the user group meetings). An open house design presentation is scheduled for Feb. 18th. It will be open to all University members, location TBD.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Arien Mack asked if the regular meetings on Mondays with Jim would be resumed.

Governance Committee:

David Loeb is the new chair of this Committee. He discussed the need for more Committee members. It was agreed that Nidhi Srinivas would replace Shoshanah Goldberg. Deidre Boyle offered to replace Nargis Virani. The Committee distributed a proposed resolution, which will be discussed at the next Senate meeting. A suggestion was made that the current Committee assignments be reviewed and distributed.

Other Remarks:

The Senate decided to hold an additional meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 8:30 am -10:00 am. The meeting will address the committee reports and the role of the Senate in the restructuring process of the University.

It was suggested that a proposed agenda for upcoming meetings would be sent out well in advance for Senate members to review and make suggestions and/or edits. A revised final agenda should be sent out prior to the meeting. Furthermore, it was suggested that it is important to enhance the communication between the individual Committees and the Senate, including email communication and posting documents on the Senate's website.

Elaine Abelson reported that the Co-Chairs had been asked to recommend three faculty members to be on the Presidential Search Committee. The Co-Chairs recommended

Peter Wheelwright of Parsons, Scott Salmon of Lang, and Bill Hirst of NSSR. She apologized for the fact that this was not brought to Senate for discussion.

Shoshanah Goldberg thanked everyone for her election, and for attending the December reception with the Board of Trustees held at the President's residence.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 8:30 am -10:00 am.