The New School University Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes
When: Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 8:30 am – 10:00 am
Where: 66 West 12th Street, Orozco Room, Rm. 712

Minutes from the twelfth session of the 2009-10 Senate – Senators-Only/Closed Session. Chaired by Elaine Abelson.

Present:
Elaine Abelson, Co-Chair, NSSR
Alan McGowan, Co-Chair, Lang
Ken Stevens, Co-Chair, Parsons
Shoshanah Goldberg, Secretary, Milano
Andrew Arato, NSSR
Deidre Boyle, NSGS
Richard Boukas, Jazz
Alexandra Chasin, Lang
Peter Eisinger, Milano
Katarzyna Gruda, Parsons
Stefania de Kennessy, Lang
Mara Kurtz, Parsons
David J. Lewis, Parsons
David Loeb, Mannes
David Mareinkowski, NSGS
Chris Shinn, Drama
Barbara Siegel, Parsons
Ju-Ying Song, Mannes
Paula Stuttman, NSGS
Nidhi Srinivas, Milano
Howard Steele, NSSR
Gary Vena, Drama
Aleksandra Wagner, NSGS
Reggie Workman, Jazz
I-Hsien Wu, NSGS

Ex-Officio:
Bill Hirst, NSSR, Presidential Search Committee

Welcome:

The meeting was opened by Elaine Abelson at 8:34 am. She welcomed everyone to the last session of the Academic Year.

Report of APC – Update on 65th Fifth Avenue / University Center Process:

David Lewis presented the updated Building Plan of the University Center. The original plan had been presented to the Building & Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees on March 23. Suggested revisions and comments, including feedback gathered at the last UFS meeting on April 13, were incorporated into the updated Building Plan. The updated Building Plan was presented to the APC at a recent University Facilities Committee (UFC) meeting on April 29. At the meeting, issues of the broader university planning structure and the planned development of new spaces (to be developed over the next 3 years), were also being addressed. Detailed materials are available online on The New School website. Moreover, an open house will be held on May 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Theresa Lang Community and Student Center on the second floor of 55 W. 13th Street. This open house will include a presentation of the new renderings of the building design.

David Lewis presented the Building Plan updates made in the areas of academic and social spaces, auditorium, event café and library, as well as structures, materials, and sustainability systems.

Questions were raised regarding the interior design and the furnishing of the academic rooms, specifically the drawing studios. David Lewis stated that the UFC has not done a furniture package yet, as this is something that will be addressed later in the process. He noted that any suggestions and comments regarding the furnishing are welcome and should be submitted as soon as possible before the UFC starts to make any final decisions. Furthermore, it was discussed whether the classroom studios would be designed to be useable by other departments and divisions if need be, e.g. by the Humanities departments, and if this option was being included in the considerations of the interior design. It was confirmed that most of the classrooms would be re-arrangeble. Another question was raised regarding the size of the classrooms and if more intimate seminar classrooms for smaller class sizes were being considered as well. It was reiterated that the classrooms will have different sizes.

A question was raised regarding the qualities of the wall surface, and whether there will be projectors in every room. It was confirmed that the walls will meet acoustic as well as practical needs, e.g. classes will be able to use pushpins on the walls. Projectors and white boards are also part of the interior design of the classrooms. Another question addressed the technical equipment of the University Center, and what kind of computers will be available (PCs and/or Macs). David Lewis stated that these kinds of decisions will be made later in the process.

A question was raised regarding the study rooms that are included in the current plan of the dormitory facilities. A concern was raised that the planned study rooms will not provide enough study space to accommodate all students. It was clarified that those study rooms are not university-wide facilities; instead, they will be available to resident students only, as they are part of the amenities the resident students pay for. It is expected that many of the students who will live in the dormitory facilities will be first- and second-year students, many of whom will be new to New York City and look for a support system and security.

A discussion was held about the size, purpose, and function of the planned library, located on the 6th and 7th floors. Many in The Senate felt that the designed library was too small, did not provide sufficient storage room for books, and would not fulfill the function of an actual library, but rather of a study and reading area. It was stated that most books would be stored at an external location with a 24-hour shipping service available at all times. A concern was raised that it was not enough to provide an open reading room instead of a complete library, and it was discussed how this might reflect on the values of The New School as a University. It was stated that this was a conceptual issue rather than an architectural issue, as The New School never had its own major library. It was pointed out that in times of the digitalization of libraries, the traditional understanding of a library would change, and thus the new library reflected The New School's pioneering role in creating a digital library. It was remarked that one of the important needs the library would fulfill was the presence of librarians who will be working at the proposed University Center Library. Another concern addressed the fact that classrooms are designed to be located on the same floor as the library, and that this might disturb the library users, as the classrooms might create undesirable noise and crowds.

The discussion then went to the Event Café. Prior concerns regarding the location of the restrooms were addressed by the UFC by designing corridors around the event café in order to give the event space a sense of isolation.

Furthermore, it was reported that the location of the sound and mixing boards in the University Center Auditorium was being re-evaluated. Richard Boukas has created a number of alternatives for their possible locations, which has been submitted to the Board. There has yet to be any discussion of equipment outfitting for that space. Richard Boukas asked that Christopher Hoffman from The New School for Jazz also be involved in this process.

The discussion then went to other issues the UFS addressed at the last meeting. It was

confirmed that the concerns made by the UFS about the proposed plans for the new building were presented to the Board. Those concerns included the elevator transfer between the library and the student housing areas. At the Board meeting, arguments were made on both sides as to whether or not the mix of residency and academic spaces was desirable.

Another discussion point was the residence hall. It was pointed out that there isn't any social space planned in the student residence hall where students could get together to talk about collective issues, and it was questioned as to how this would reflect the values of The New School.

David Lewis then reported that a larger conversation was taking place regarding planning issues of other TNS buildings, including 79 5th Avenue and 6 E. 16th Street. Moving forward, this will become a bigger discussion.

David Lewis closed by saying that the APC will continue its work over the summer. Any comments or suggestions can be emailed to any of the members of the APC. The Senate thanked David Lewis and the APC for their hard work.

Update on Presidential Search

Bill Hirst presented an update on the Presidential Search. The Presidential Search Committee has started to examine nominated individuals. The Committee expects to have final candidates by the beginning of the Fall 2010 semester. Currently, about 50 people have been nominated as potential candidates, including self-nominations. The consultant search firm is in the process of making calls to potential candidates. Hirst stated that the pool of potential candidates was a national pool, which included some very strong and promising potential candidates, mainly academics with considerable managerial experience. He pointed out that it was a representative group of candidates. Hirst said that the majority of Committee members seemed to be looking for a "traditional" candidate, with experience in an administrative position at a recognized university.

It was asked whether the UFS would have a chance to meet potential candidates in the Fall. Hirst responded that the search firm believes that the UFS will not have a chance to vet the candidate, due to the fact that this is a very confidential process and a public vetting process is not being planned in order to protect the candidates.

Another question was raised as to whether the Committee had any specific comments about whom they do *not* wish to hire, or any specific types of candidates they are *not* looking for. It was affirmed that the Committee is trying to be open and inclusive in

regards to the background of candidates. It was reiterated that the Committee is very pleased with the pool of candidates who are being nominated. In response to a question regarding a due date for nominations, Bill Hirst remarked that an official due date has not been determined. There is a chance that last-minute candidates would still be considered.

There was a recognition that The New School is a very complicated institution compared to other universities. This fact is being addressed in the interview process.

Approval of Minutes from 4/13/2010:

The minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Discussion of UFS 2010-2011 Committees, and Election of Senate Officers, Co-Chairs, and Secretary for 2010-2011 Academic Year:

The following Senators indicated that they will continue to serve on the University Faculty Senate in the 2010/2011 Academic Year:

Elaine Abelson, NSSR
Ken Stevens, Parsons
Shoshanah Goldberg, Milano
Andrew Arato, NSSR
Richard Boukas, Jazz
Alexandra Chasin, Lang
Peter Eisinger, Milano
Katarzyna Gruda, Parsons
Mara Kurtz, Parsons
David J. Lewis, Parsons
David Loeb, Mannes
Barbara Siegel, Parsons (not Fall, but back in Spring)
Ju-Ying Song, Mannes
Nidhi Srinivas, Milano
Gary Vena, Drama

The three Standing Committees are as follows:

- **Academic Planning Committee**
- **Faculty Affairs Committee**
- **Governance Committee**

A suggestion was made that committees would review candidates and decide how to move forward. Each Committee is asked to provide a brief description of their roles and responsibilities, which will be sent out to the Senators and to the divisions to distribute to potential Senate candidates. It was suggested that the new Co-Chairs would hold an orientation to ensure the effectiveness of the Committees.

Academic Planning Committee:
David Lewis was asked to remain Chair of the APC. He agreed to continue throughout the summer until new elections will be held for each Committee in the Fall.

Faculty Affairs Committee:
Given the ongoing revision process of the faculty handbook, it is likely that the Committee's workload will increase. Moreover, there is a robust discussion concerning the effect of the restructuring process of the University on the faculty.

Governance Committee:
David Loeb remarked that the Governance Committee will need new members, as most of its members will leave the Senate and/or obtain new roles.

Finally, it was noted that the draft resolution discussed at the last meeting was being dismissed. The resolution will not be presented to the Board of Trustees, but it was pointed out how helpful it had been to gather everyone's input.

Shoshanah Goldberg thanked the two outgoing Co-Chairs, as well as the outgoing Senators for their hard work and leadership.
On behalf of the Co-Chairs, Elaine Abelson thanked all of the Senators for their work throughout the Academic Year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.