

The New School University Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

When: Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

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

Minutes from the eleventh session of the 2009-10 Senate –Senators-Only/Closed Session. Chaired by Alan McGowan.

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
Mara Kurtz, Parsons
Alexandra Chasin, Lang
Peter Eisinger, Milano
Katarzyna Gruda, Parsons
Arien Mack, NSSR
David Marcinkowski, NSGS
Chris Shinn, Drama
Barbara Siegel, Parsons
Ju-Ying Song, Mannes
Nidhi Srinivas, Milano
Howard Steele, NSSR
Gary Vena, Drama
Aleksandra Wagner, NSGS
Peter Wheelwright, Parsons
Reggie Workman, Jazz
I-Hsien Wu, NSGS

Welcome

The meeting was opened by Alan McGowan at 8:34 am.

Report on 65 Fifth Avenue / University Center

Peter Wheelwright discussed the Building Plan of the University Center, which was presented to the Building & Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees on March 23 and to the University Facilities Committee (UFC) on March 25 in response to Senate's APC comments. The next meeting of the UFC will be held on April 29. Peter Wheelwright gave an overview over the floor plans. He presented the original plan that

was submitted, including comments for proposed revisions after the APC's comments. He stated that any questions and/or comments and notes are welcomed and can be submitted via email to himself (pwheel@newschool.edu), David Lewis (lewisd@newschool.edu), or Richard Boukas (boukmusik@earthlink.net).

- **Cellar 1:** All students' housing amenities, including laundry facilities, fitness center, etc.
- **Cellar 2:** All students' classrooms and event café, including a performance stage. There is also retail storage space on this floor.
- **1st Floor:** All students' classrooms and auditorium as well as retail space on the 14th Street side of the building. An elevator goes up to student housing, located on the 8th-16th floors. Concerns were raised regarding acoustical relationship between event space and the lobby, as there will be a lot of traffic in close proximity to the performance stage. This issue currently is being addressed. Looking at the auditorium design criteria, Richard Boukas pointed out that the sound mix station in-house was too close to the stage, stating that it should be further back. A question was raised regarding the technology of the performance venue. It was confirmed that the current plan included sufficient audio-visual technology. Richard Boukas stated that it was important to ensure sufficient technological equipment for the sound mix board.
- **Second Floor:** Cafeteria and all students' classrooms, and mixed-use Parson's classrooms (DWG studios).
 - Cafeteria: A revised plan was presented, including a variety of seats and room for both more privacy and open areas to provide for formal and informal gathering areas
 - An elevator goes up to 3rd floor, which is the Faculty Resource Center
- **Third Floor:** All Faculty Resource Center, all students' classrooms and mixed-use Parsons (DWG Studios)
 - The Faculty Resource Center includes a conference room, private meeting rooms, and an open area for general gatherings. A discussion was held about the Faculty Resource Space. Questions were raised as to whether there was enough space for private rooms compared to the open area, and what the exact purpose of the open area was. It was pointed out that this area was designed for larger faculty gatherings and part-time faculty, who currently do not have sufficient space to meet with students and prepare for their classes on campus. It was pointed out by Senate members that the proposed faculty rooms would still not provide enough space to accommodate all part-time faculty, especially considering that fact that these areas are intended to be available to all part-time faculty for the entire University. In response to this comment it was stated that not all part-time faculty would use the spaces at the

University Center, as many had their own work spaces, and therefore would not rely on this space. Moreover, they would not be at the School every day.

- A question was raised regarding the purpose of and equipment for the open faculty space, and whether or not it would include desktops and printers, or if it was designed for faculty to bring their own laptops. If so, there would be a need for appropriate technological equipment and wireless access to the School network. Peter Wheelwright confirmed that wireless access was included in the plan. It was asked if there was a possibility of dividing up the space with movable walls, if needed. It was responded that this aspect had been addressed by designing the private meeting rooms, which have been created in addition to the open space. It was pointed out that the open space had several advantages, as it was an opportunity to cultivate a cross-divisional faculty community, promote interaction, and helped to create an open culture among faculty. It was also stated that this space could function as another event space.
- Concerns were raised regarding the allocation of space among the University divisions in the new Center. It was felt that there was not enough space to accommodate faculty from all divisions of the University. It was pointed out that the fact that there was faculty space at all included in the plan for a new Center was already an accomplishment of the UFS and the focus groups, even when it was felt among the Senate that the space was not sufficient. It was reiterated that the UFS was open to critique.
- **4th and 5th floors:** Parsons classrooms (Fashion) and faculty offices (Fashion only)
A discussion was held around the flexibility of the classrooms. It was stated that the proposed plan would allow for maximum flexibility: proposed ideas include demountable walls so rooms can be reconfigured. While the North-South walls will have all fixtures and wires, the East-West walls will be easily demountable. Moreover, Peter Wheelwright presented the design of the windows and their light influence. It was noted that most windows will be equipped with black-out shades. There was a concern regarding all rooms being of rectangular shape. It was pointed out that most Fashion and other creative classes are practical and do not follow a usual class model with desks and chairs.
- **6th floor:** Library
There was a concern regarding the idea that elevators that provide access to the library also provide access to the students housing areas, located on the upper floors. Students will be able to access the library from upstairs, as this elevator access will allow for transfer from the dormitory areas to the academic areas. It was stated that there are concerns regarding security issues if the same

elevators are used to access both the library and student housing areas.

- **7th floor:** Library; back of house; staff offices.
It was pointed out that there was no elevator access between the 6th and 7th floor libraries. A question was raised regarding the exact set-up of the library space.
- **8th – 16th floors:** All students' housing

Concerns were raised regarding the equity of allocation of space and regarding the fact that Parsons' Fashion design department will be located in the new Center while other divisions felt left out. It was pointed out that, as this new building was supposed to serve as a signature building for TNS, this would provide an undesirable presentation of the entire school. Richard Boukas pointed out that the building had to be downsized and the original plans had to be revised, due to the current economy. Concerns were raised about how this may affect the vision and idea of the entire University. It was agreed that this issue shall be communicated to the Committee. It was proposed to have another meeting to discuss these issues, and a draft resolution will be created to be presented to the Board of Trustees. It was reiterated that the proposed resolution should be intended to communicate the concerns regarding the distribution and allocation of space and resources rather than attacking the current project or Parsons' Fashion department. The Co-Chairs agreed to create a resolution draft, which will be sent out for review before the next meeting.

Part-time Faculty Resolution Follow up

- Lang: Alexandra Chasin reported that there was no contradiction at Lang regarding the resolution that part-time faculty was allowed to participate in the UFS and other University bodies. Instead, this resolution had a positive impact on the discussion at Lang.
- Parsons: Peter Wheelwright reported that a faculty council meeting was going to be held tonight, 4/13, to discuss this issue. He explained that Parsons did not have a governance group; however, the division was moving towards a solution.
- NSGS: Deirdre Boyle stated that she felt there was a split among the NSGS community, noting that there has been resistance regarding part-time faculty engagement, and that there was a rift between supporters and adversaries of the resolution. In the process of merging with Milano, there will be new opportunities to develop an appropriate governance structure. Part-time faculty should also be engaged in this progress.

Alan McGowan affirmed that this discussion will be continued.

Election of Senate officers - Co-Chairs and Secretary for 2010-2011 Academic Year**Election of Co-Chairs:**

Alan McGowan explained that this election was held one month early in order to secure a smooth transition process. His term on the UFS will end with his academic year. It was pointed out that whoever accepted a nomination should be aware that this position meant a great workload. A concern was raised that it was not optimal to change the entire co-chair positions at once, instead of a step-by-step transition that would allow for overlap between new and current Co-Chairs. It was stated that this is a governance issue. The Governance committee is working on changing the current by-laws, which do not allow for a step-by-step transition.

It was pointed out that in this time of transition continuity and security in the leadership were crucial. Moreover, it was felt that the number of Co-Chairs shall remain three as opposed to two Co-Chairs, supporting the sense of continuity and security while considering individuals' schedules.

Nominations for the position of Co-Chair:

The following individuals were nominated by UFS members:

Arien Mack (accepted)

Alexandra Chasin (accepted)

Chris Shinn (declined)

Barbara Siegel (declined)

Peter Eisinger (declined)

Nidhi Srinivas (first declined, but he was re-nominated and accepted the nomination)

Peter Wheelwright (declined)

David Lewis (declined)

Ken Stevens (accepted re-nomination)

Accepted nominations for the position of Co-chair:

Alexandra Chasin

Arien Mack

Nidhi Srinivas

Ken Stevens

Election of Secretary**Nominations for the position of Secretary:**

Shoshanah Goldberg was nominated for the position of Secretary. She accepted, given that she would be re-elected as a UFS Senator, as her current term ends at the end of this academic year. It was pointed out that the election of the Secretary is a different process than the Co-Chair election, as a simple majority is sufficient to be elected for this position while the Co-Chairs need a certain %.

The elections of the Co-Chairs and the Secretary took place. The votes will be counted and announced via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.