Academic Policies Committee Summary for 2006-07

Members:

Keith Buhl (Drama)
Carolyn Berman (NSGS)

Douglas Diaz (Parsons) Committee Co-chair
Peter Haratonik (NSGS)
Mary Judge (Parsons)
Robert Kirkbride (Parsons)

Elzbieta Matynia (NSSR) Committee Co-chair
Dominic Pettman (Lang)
Edward Powers (Milano)

Summary of 2006-07 Activities

Mission statement:

The Academic Policy Committee aims to support university-wide academic space and IT planning initiatives by providing a clearinghouse within the University Faculty Senate for faculty to circulate information surrounding these issues, and to ensure that facilities matters are considered in tandem with the pedagogical objectives of the divisions and university.

Space Planning Document

Demonstrating the APC's mission, this document was the centerpiece of the committee's work across the year; it was intended to offer a faculty perspective in support of early and interim planning stages for the new building at 65 5th Avenue. The committee considered the proposed new building as a valuable case example of broader university-wide facilities and academic planning. Individual members gathered information about academic and facilities initiatives from "point people" in her/his division to discuss during committee meetings. Faculty (Cynthia Lawson, Parsons) were invited to present their findings and ideas at APC meetings. This information was summarized by committee members and included in the final document as divisional "chapters."

A working draft of the document was distributed to senators at the April 10th Senate working session, to members of the planning consulting firm IDEO, and subsequently to faculty at-large, administration and the Provost's Office.

IT (Information Technology) Resolution 06/07-2

At early stages in developing the Space Planning Document, it became apparent that IT (Information Technology) at the University should be addressed

as an integral part of space and academic planning. The committee prepared the UFS IT Resolution 06/07-2. The committee subsequently met with Shelley Reed (Senior Vice President for Information Technology) and Lillian Sartori to discuss the IT Resolution in late February and plans to meet again in mid-May.

Motion for inviting Curriculum Committee Co-chairs to report to UFS

To ensure faculty/UFS awareness of the work of the Curriculum Committees (established by the Provost and Deans), a motion was made (and passed) at the April 10 Senate working session to request periodic updates from the committee Co-chairs.

Operational Diagram Resolution 06/07-5

During the process of planning for the new building and Phase II of the Faculty Handbook, it became clear that the New School community would greatly benefit from an interactive operational diagram to enhance transparency of and participation in the day-to-day workings of the university. This resolution was passed by e-vote on April 29th.

Summary of Suggested Agenda for 2007-08

1. Support of Academic Planning

Invitation of Curriculum Committee co-chairs to update UFS on planning progress

Clarification of proposed 5 yr. BA/MA programs

Clarification of pedagogical ramifications and resources necessary to support interdivisional appointments, initiatives and courses (eg university-wide lectures)

2. Support of IT initiatives

Development of the University-Wide Interactive Operational Diagram UFS website requires an administrator: could this be an addendum to the UFS Office Resolution 06/07-4? Faculty support and training in IT

Support of Space Planning

Focus on the library – interim and ultimately at 65 5th – and its manifestation of academic ideals. The new building as a case example of university-wide space and academic planning Invitation of pertinent members involved in the planning to update the UFS.

p2007-08 APC Members:

Richard Boukas (Jazz)
Keith Buhl (Drama)
John Clinton (Milano)
Onno de Jong (Parsons)
Rachel Heiman (NSGS)*
Robert Kirkbride (Parsons) Committee Chair
Mark Larrimore (Lang)*
Dominic Pettman (Lang)*
Cecilia Rubino (Lang)*
Faye-Ellen Silverman (Mannes)
Sven Travis (Parsons)
Susan Weller (Parsons)*
Paula Stuttman (NSGS)*

*served portion of year

Mission

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Summary of 2007-08 Activities

Revision of Space Planning (APC) Document:

The current revision incorporates the results of concerted faculty and administrators efforts within and across divisions of The New School to support programming for the signature building and the developing university-wide programs. The APC Document includes more detailed information from 7 of the 8 divisions (missing only Drama), and an important report on the history of Information Technology ("Social Technology and the Future of The New School") with proposed action steps. Also included is the history of senate resolutions and initiatives generated by the AP Committee. As a living document, this will be revised next year to gather "floating" data that is fresh from the programming process.

Work related to the programming of a new building at 65 5th:

The AP Committee worked with the Provost's Office to support a series of design charrettes (including faculty and students) and public forae centered on the new building. While the future building at 65 5th Avenue has provided a stimulus to sharpen the pedagogical vision of The New School, more significantly it has represented an opportunity for developing a holistic approach to an interim and long-range strategic university-wide planning process, with students and faculty as integral participants. In spite of recent adjustments to the plans and scheduling of the new building, these energies and skills are central to making the ongoing re-envisioning of The New School a success, ideologically and pragmatically.

Established the Socially Responsible Construction Management Task Force (UFS

Resolution 07/08-1):

The pursuit of a model of social, environmental, and fiscal responsibility in construction management would highlight the university's planning and construction activities as a material expression of the values The New School represents, providing a rich array of research and teaching opportunities. Chaired by John Clinton (Milano), the Task Force will conduct its first Student Research Forum on May 6, 11-2 pm, highlighting student projects across the university that engage sustainable construction issues.

Initiative to establish a Performing Arts Space and Curriculum Task Force:

To support development of new programs across the performing arts divisions (with overlaps to Lang, Parsons and NSGS), the APC advocates the participation of faculty familiar with the academic and facilities needs.

Going forward: Objectives for 2008-09

Academic: New/ongoing Academic planning around new structure of the university Physical facilities:

UFS/APC response to student resolution on energy

Subsequent revision of APC document

The new building as ongoing case example of university-wide space and academic planning Survey of existing university facilities as pedagogical exercise (SCRM)

Establish task force for IT issues:

Faculty support and training in IT

Development of the University-Wide Interactive Operational Diagram

Work to improve online teaching conditions

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