

## University Councils and Commissions

### The Faculty Senators Council

Each of the faculties, according to its size, has one or more representatives on the Faculty Senators Council, a University-wide body of elected professors. University Bylaw 63(a) provides that “The Faculty Senators Council may consider any matters of educational and administrative policy and will function as the Faculty Personnel Committee of the Senate. It will designate representatives on the other standing committees, and in appropriate instances on the ad hoc committees, of the Senate. It may bring to the attention of the various committees of the Senate any matters that it believes should be presented to the entire Senate. It may bring to the attention of the President and Chancellor any matters that it wishes to discuss with him or her. It will perform such other educational functions as are assigned to it by the President and Chancellor or by the Board.”

The administration of New York University and the Faculty Senators Council have agreed to the following five Principles of Joint Shared Governance (Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 12, 2012):

#### **1. Representation**

The Faculty Senators Council (FSC) will have a representative (from the FSC or its designee), on University committees, taskforces, or other University-wide bodies that are convened by the administration to advise on matters that affect faculty in educational and administrative policy.

#### **2. Information**

Transparency with respect to information regarding matters that affect faculty in educational and administrative policy is the norm. The use of “deliberative privilege” is the exception to this norm, requested only in circumstances wherein an individual(s) or the University’s interests would be harmed by public disclosure. In such instances, the University administration will provide appropriate reasons for invoking “deliberative privilege”.

#### **3. Consultation**

Except under rare, extraordinary circumstances, the University administration will provide a reasonable length of time for FSC consultation and input on all matters that affect faculty in educational and administrative policy. This means that the administration must plan in advance to allow enough time for at least one regularly-scheduled FSC meeting to occur before the consultation period comes to a close on any particular matter.

For urgent decisions, such as decisions that must be taken during the summer or winter holiday, when the FSC is not in session, the FSC will establish a “provisional review committee” and a set of procedures for timely consultation and input regarding University administration decisions on matters that affect faculty in educational and administrative policy. All decisions reached by FSC’s provisional review committee are subject to full FSC review and approval. The FSC will promptly convey its final decision on the matter to the administration, which in turn will reconsider the provisional policy, based on new or additional advice provided by the FSC. The administration will then promptly convey its final decision to the FSC.

#### **4. Reasoned Justification**

When the FSC submits advice in writing to the University administration and the administration does not agree with or accept the FSC's advice, the administration will provide its reasons for not accepting the FSC's advice to the FSC in writing and in a timely matter.

#### **5. Communication**

Predicated on the understanding the communications will pertain to Senate-related matters relevant to faculty colleagues within the Senators' schools, and that the communication systems will be used in a reasonable and responsible manner consistent with the norms of civility, the Deans will enable Senators to send emails to faculty colleagues within their schools. Such communication will clearly convey whether its content is an official FSC communication or if it reflects the personal view(s) of the author(s).

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