New York Faculty Council

Pace University
New York, NY 10038

Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

Online meeting conducted via Zoom

Daniel Strahs, Chairperson
Janice Winch, 1st Vice Chairperson
Darren Hayes, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Winifred C. Connerton, Secretary

12:00p   Lunch

12:10   Call to order

Approval of minutes from February 2/5/20

Accepted 50

Rejected 0

Minutes accepted

12:20   **Academic Resources – Learning Management Systems Recommendations**
(Marcus Braga Alves, Gina Scutelnicu)

Presentation slides attached

Presentation highlights:

- Blackboard at Pace
    - Blackboard successfully used at Pace for 20 years
    - Blackboard's new Ultra platform was installed in June 2019
    - Early adopters consistently disapproved of the new system
    - All Blackboard services will be transitioning to Ultra in 2020, the company is no longer supporting the older version we have been using
- Canvas and Brightspace (D2L) identified as market leaders in terms of functionality and new learning experiences
    - Features & Functions
        - Both products delivered similar capabilities and exceeded those of Blackboard Ultra and Blackboard Original
        - Both products integrate with our 3rd party tools
    - Ease of Transition
        - Both products required the same amount of work to make courses
'student ready'
    - Technical and Security Review
        - Both products are delivered as 'cloud solutions'
        - Technical review gives a slight edge to Brightspace in terms of integration
        - Security review prefers the Brightspace approach and focus on security
    - Financial Costs and Company Profile
        - Pace Finance consider D2L to be the stronger company financially and more stable
- Faculty preference:
    - Where Faculty had a preference it was with the product that better

aligned to their individual teach style. The preferences were spread evenly across the two systems

- o Faculty generally felt Brightspace was slightly more intuitive
- Summary
  - o Both products were considered functionally equivalent
  - o Transition to both products considered equivalent
  - o Technical and Security slightly favor Brightspace (D2L)
  - o Company profile of D2L much stronger than Instructure (Canvas) with Instructure ownership in flux
  - o Canvas pricing 31% higher than Brightspace
  - o Brightspace pricing 9% cheaper than Blackboard, and includes a 50% discount during the 1st year to offset dual running costs
  - o The committee voted unanimously for Brightspace based on its cost and functionality

Discussion

M. Braga Alves – We're presenting this and not seeking a vote because the working group had a big part in the decision-making. We don't want to end up with multiple LMS across the University. This LMS has been also endorsed by the Provost.

G. Scutelnicu – if you have comments or concerns before we advance this recommendation please contact the working group.

D. Strahs [summarizing questions on Chat] -- Will we keep Panopto and Kaltura, and can they be incorporated into Brightspace?

G. Scutelnicu – yes, all third party systems can be incorporated.

E. Chang – Are there a wide variety of questions available from publishers that can be used with Brightspace as they are with Canvas or Blackboard?

G. Scutelnicu – I am not sure, but we were told that whatever works for Canvas does work with Brightspace.

M. Braga Alves – I've worked with this system [Brightspace] at another university and had no problem with using questions from publishers.

Krystyna DeJacq – When will we be switching?

G. Scutelnicu – the Blackboard contract expires in July, 2021. The plan is to run both systems at the same time with some pilot courses using the Brightspace system. You will be able to copy your existing courses into this new system. You can start from scratch, but you can definitely rely on what you have so far.

W. Antognini [via chat] -- I think we should hold off on any decision until we have feedback from our experience from the university switching to an entirely online format due to coronavirus. This will provide a much broader set of experiences.

M. Braga Alves – Blackboard is out of the picture because of the problems migrating

from the old version to the Ultra version. All the faculty who responded about Ultra had very negative comments.

G. Scutelnicu – Blackboard will not be supporting their original version – they will only support Ultra from now on.

M. Braga Alves – the only option is between Canvas and Brightspace.

Sonia Suchday – is it possible to have a mass transit of all of our courses from Bb to the new system? I don't know immediately what I need but there is a lot of information that I put on Blackboard now.

G. Scutelnicu – that is possible, and very easily done.

M. Braga Alves – the faculty working group emphasized that faculty will need support during the transition, and the ITS department was very receptive to this request.

D. Strahs – Thank you, we have to close discussion on this now.

12:40   Provost Quiñones

D. Strahs – We've invited Provost Vanya Quiñones here to talk with us about the process of moving the University to three weeks of online teaching.

General Comments from Provost Quiñones:

Let me start by talking about what we have been doing about the Corona Virus. Since the outbreak in early January we created a task force with different components: academic, facilities, health and communications. Since January we have been sending communications out to update the community.

In the last two weeks we have had Westchester, a hot spot, where two of our campuses are and where faculty commute to and from each day. Cases are accelerating.

It was a tough decision, but we had to keep in mind what is the best for our students, faculty, and staff, and for the University overall. We have been coordinating with all the private universities in the area: Iona, NYU, New School and others.

It was decided that if we cancel on campus classes a few days before the spring break, and then have students away during the spring break, that the period of acceleration will pass and we would not be encouraging large groups gathering. We have had a lot of seminars on how to move courses online.

Questions:

Mark Hussey [via chat] – If the point of going to fully online classes is to mitigate virus spread, why are student workers and staff still required to work in-person rather than remotely?

V. Quiñones – We have left individual managers to decide the functionality of staff working remotely. We are considering staggering staff schedules so they don't have to commute during peak hours. We are trying to do two things: 1- We are trying to avoid large groups of people – staff are not usually involved in big meetings; 2- we are trying to reduce anxiety of faculty and students. Will this protect us from the virus, I cannot say. We are trying to comply with the CDC guidelines and NYS government.

Catherine Zimmer -- from the message we received yesterday it seemed like there

was a lot of insistence that staff report as usual, and that there was no room for negotiation on that. That message seemed counter-productive, and I wanted to second the idea that for office staff, whose jobs could so easily be done remotely, that they be encouraged to do so. Particularly commuting to the NYC campus exposes the campus community more. I didn't understand why there was such an insistence in the message we received yesterday.

V. Quiñones – In the message we sent out it said that managers would decide case-by-case. We are working on a message to the staff, and we have a webinar that will be going on after this, to talk about the different options with managers.

Darren Hayes [summarizing multiple questions from the chat] – there are questions about events that are happening just *after* the end of the three weeks, such as March 30 and 31. How much lead time will we have to know whether we will be on campus those days?

V. Quiñones – the plan now is changing minute-by-minute. We are meeting every day and trying to figure out how to go forward. If the virus accelerates drastically in the next week, then starts dropping then we will be guided by that, or if there are changes from the CDC, NYC or the State, then we will do what is recommended. I don't want to sound like we don't have a plan, but we do have to wait and see. I think the next week will be a crucial time because the incubation time is 14 days. If you look at China and Italy the incubation period was about a week and a half. We will inform the community as soon as we can. Hopefully when we come back from spring break we will have a better idea. We're been pretty open with the community so far, and we will do the same if there are any changes in our plans. For now we are planning to reopen on the 29th. We're using two systems – we're using email and internet messages through Pace Alerts.

Monica Palta [via chat] – Is it acceptable to meet with graduate or undergraduate students one on one, if they are conducting research with us? (If the faculty member and student in question are both healthy)

V. Quiñones – the policy allows the Deans to decide application by each school. For example, in CHP clinical practice will continue, and PhD programs may meet, in Dyson the PPA will determine their approach. Each school will decide its own process. Zoom works well for small meetings, and follow the CDC guidelines about not getting closer than 4 feet, use wipes on the door handles, etc. For example, this meeting is going well on Zoom. Advising will continue through Zoom as well. We're trying to provide the tools needed to help you get your work done.

Dan Strahs – I want to thank you for coming to talk with us. There are more questions, but we have to close this discussion. I recommend faculty direct your questions to the areas they have questions about (such as the Learning Centers).

V. Quiñones – the university is open. Centers will use Zoom to meet with students, we have athletic games but no spectators. If you have someone who needs help, send them to the Learning Center; someone who needs counselling – send them to the Counselling Center. We are sending information to students about how to continue their work. Students can find information at

OSA. They need to know that everything is continuing as usual.

V. Quiñones – I know it is very difficult, and it was a tough decision. We have multiple campuses and different communities. Our faculty may be at risk (over 50), we have to think about faculty, staff and students. We are going to keep communicating as much as we can.

12:55   Motion to move into closed session

Accepted 54

Rejected 0

Motion accepted

Constitutional amendments (David Jackson, Parliamentarian)

Presentation attached

Discussion

Concern about the benefit in voting for something this serious using new methods at an online meeting (which is also new)

Would prefer to have abstain as an option in the voting options.

Clarification on the role of Abstain in Robert's Rules of Order – the language is meant to make the voting results clearer.

The current (unamended) wording *is* confusing and makes it difficult to calculate the voting results

Vote on Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1 to Article II. Authority of the NYFC

Accepted 50

Rejected 5

Passed

Amendment 2 to Article IV. Officers of the NYFC Section 3. Nomination and Election of Officers

Accepted 54

Rejected 6

Passed

Amendment 3 to Article VI. Meetings Section 3. A Quorum

Accepted 55

Rejected 7

Passed

Amendment 4 to Article VIII. Amendments Section 2

Accepted 52

Rejected 7

Passed

Discussion related to Amendment 5 – Adding closed session to the order of business

Can we go into closed session on a motion from the floor as we have before? Ans: Yes, that is still an option following the usual Robert's Rules

Benefits and drawbacks of having a limited time in the meeting closed to voting members versus having only closed meetings with occasional sessions when administrators are invited.

CHP faculty council has a structure like this, with a regularly scheduled session that is closed to voting members only, which meets the faculty needs well.

Having administrators at each meeting is important for us to be able to ask them questions as they come up.

Vote: Amendment 5 to Article VI. Meetings Section 4. Order of Business

Accepted 42

Rejected 12

Passed

1:35   Chair's report

Select slides attached

Topics

CAP working group update

Discussions with AAUP/AFT

Process for selecting NYFC member for mixed committees

PPA letter to the Provost

Role of administration members during curriculum discussion and votes

History of the University Senate at Pace

Dangers of excluding Administration from NYFC meetings -- administrators skipping NYFC and going directly (and only) to committees

Discussion

Faculty representation on mixed committees should be chosen by the faculty, this is a reason to have the Administration present in the meeting – to answer this question.

PPA is a popular program, and the popularity of the program is being leveraged to raise money for the University.

Willingness on the part of faculty to help bring AAUP/AFT to campus

Curriculum committee material held over to April Meeting

Faculty Affairs material held over to April Meeting

2:35   Adjournment

Attendees (92 total)

Name	Dept / Unit / Office
Amaya, Ana	Health Science
Antognini, Walter	Legal Studies & Taxation
Barrella, Vincent	Legal Studies & Taxation
Berg, Abbey	Communication Sciences & Disorders
Bishop, Susan	Management & Management Science
Braga-Alves, Marcus	Finance & Economics
Brewer, Meaghan	English
Buraei, Zafir K.	Biology
Cacheiro, Jorge	Performing Arts
Cappelmann, Susan	Physician Assistant Program
Chan, Eduardo	Mathematics
Chang, Eric	Chemistry & Physical Sciences
Charles, Marie Lourdes	Nurse Education
Connerton, Winifred C.	Nursing
Covino, Jean	Physician Assistant Program
Crispo, Erika	Biology
Crosby, Andrew	Public Administration
de Jacq, Krystyna	Nursing
Dupont, Ida	Sociology & Anthropology
Dwyer, Cathy	Information Systems
Evans, Brian	Mathematics
Farber, Lisa	Art
Frank, Ronald K.	History
Freedman, Amy	Political Science
Goldman, Elena	Finance & Economics
Gottesfeld, Linda	Fine Arts
Gregory, Kyomi	Communication Sciences & Disorders
Dutta Gupta, Shamita	Mathematics
Hale, Nancy	Technology Systems
Hassinger-Das, Brenna	Psychology
Henley, Tiffany	Public Administration
Hsu, Stephanie	English
Huckle, Kiku	Political Science
Hussey, Mark	English
Jackson, David	Physician Assistant Program
Johnson, Erica	English
Joseph, Anthony	Computer Science
Kahle, Lynn	Marketing
Kazlow, Michael	Mathematics
Kelly, Marcy	Biology

Kline, Richard	Computer Science
Knoesel, Joanne M.	Nurse Education
Kolenda, Ric	Management & Management Science
Kramar, Tracy	Physician Assistant Program
Kunstel, Kate	Physician Assistant Program
Larameé, Eve Andreé	Fine Arts
Lin, Chienting	Information Systems
Magaldi, Jessica	Legal Studies & Taxation
Marcello, Matthew	Biology
McDermott, Peter	Education
Mendelsohn, Joshua	Health Studies
Miller, Eddis	Philosophy & Religious Studies
Min, Seong Jae	Communication Studies
Mojica, Elmer-Rico	Chemistry & Physical Sciences
Morris, Barry	Communication Studies
Murphy, Mary Ann	Communication Studies
Nayak, Meghana	Political Science
Offutt, William	History/ Honors Program
Ozkara San, Eda	Nursing
Paljevic, Esma	Nursing
Palta, Monica	Environmental Studies & Science
Raubicheck, Walter	English
Reagin, Nancy	History/Women's Studies
Salzer, Elizabeth	Physician Assistant Program
Sandler, Dennis	Marketing
Schulman, Liora	Accounting
Scutelnicu, Gina	Public Administration
Sen, Kaustav	Accounting
Shin, Namchul	Information Technology
Singleton, Joanne	Nursing
Slyer, Jason T.	Nursing
Strahs, Daniel	Biology
Strobel, Michael	Computer Science
Suchday, Sonia	Psychology
Szablewicz, Marcella T.	Communication Studies
Tekula, Rebecca	Public Administration
Toomey, Anne	Environmental Studies & Science
Upmacis, Rita	Chemistry & Physical Sciences
Viswanath, P. V.	Finance & Economics
Wexler, Sharon Stahl	Nursing
Wiener, Robert	Legal Studies & Taxation
Winch, Janice	Management & Management Science
Yuan, Jun	Computer Science
Zaccario, Michelle	Psychology
Zaslow, Emilie	Communication Studies

Zhang, Zhan	Information Technology
Zimmer, Catherine	Film and Screen Studies

Guests

Dampier, Paul	Vice President/CIO
Elarde, Christopher	Information Technology Services
Gordon, Beth	AVP, IT Academic/Admin Svcs
Quiñones, Vanya	Provost
Thompson, Nicole	VP, Admin Oprns/Technology

Attachments below

LMS Review – Recommendation Summary

- Working Group Members
- Background and Preliminary work
- Review Process
- Selection Criteria and Results
- E&I Cooperative Services selection
- Recommendation

Working Group Members

Peggy Minnis   WFC sub-committee for Technology and Learning
Gina Sorrentino
Fran Falk-Ross
Gina Scutelnicu   NYC Faculty Council Academic Resources sub-committee
Kelley Kreitz
Marcus Braga Alves
Noa Ben Asher   Elizabeth Haub School of Law
Nancy Hale   Professional Education and Special Programs
Paul Dampier   VP Information Technology Services

Non-voting members

Beth Gordon   AVP ITS and Committee secretary
John Blackwell   ITS technical representative

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Introduction and Background

- Blackboard successfully used at Pace for 20 years
- 21st century teaching and learning needs require new tools
- Blackboard's new Ultra platform installed in June 2019
- Early adopters consistently disapproved of the new system
- ITS reviewed potential alternatives, consulted with other institutions, faculty, students, and E&I Cooperative Services
- Canvas and Brightspace (D2L) identified as market leaders in terms of functionality and new learning experiences

moodle   Sakai   D2L DESIRE2LEARN   canvas BY INSTRUCTURE   Blackboard

Review Process

- Blackboard Ultra Early adopters – 60 courses
- ITS market review and discussions with peer institutions
- Faculty working group assembled to evaluate and agree recommendations
- Selected for full review - Brightspace from D2L and Canvas from Instructure
- Created Pace testing systems for both products using Pace Faculty courses for both faculty and students to evaluate
- Both vendors presented in NYC and PLV over two days per vendor
- ITS performed both technical and security assessments
- Pace Finance researched the financial and management profiles
- Best and final offer pricing received from vendors for comparative services

Selection Criteria and Findings - 1

Product assessment conducted using these categories;

- Features & Functions
- Ease of Transition
- Technical and Security Review
- Financial Costs and Company Profile

Selection Criteria and Findings - 2

- Features & Functions
  - Both products delivered similar capabilities to the same high standards and these far exceeded those of Blackboard Ultra and Blackboard Original
  - Both products integrate with our 3rd party tools using the modern Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) standard
  - Where Faculty had a preference it was with the product that better aligned to their individual teach style. The preferences were spread evenly across the two systems
- Ease of Transition
  - Both products required the same amount of work to make courses 'student ready'
  - Faculty generally felt Brightspace was slightly more intuitive

Selection Criteria and Findings - 3

- Technical and Security Review
  - Both products are delivered as 'cloud solutions'
  - Technical review gives a slight edge to Brightspace in terms of integration
  - D2L have been much more responsive during the reviews to our requests
  - Security review prefers the Brightspace approach and focus on security
- Financial Costs and Company Profile
  - Canvas, a NYSE list company, involved in a buy-out by private investment company. CEO resigned in February 2020, company board has turned down latest two offers
  - D2L privately owned by founder/president
  - Dun & Bradstreet ratings
    - Overall business risks – D2L as Low, Canvas as Moderate
    - Overall assessment – D2L very stable condition, Canvas stable condition
    - Prediction of continued operations – D2L Strong likelihood, Canvas likelihood
  - Pace Finance consider D2L to be the stronger company financially and more stable

E&I Cooperative Services Selects Brightspace

October 1, 2018 — E&I Cooperative Services (**E&I**) — the largest and most experienced member-owned, non-profit purchasing cooperative serving the needs of education in the United States — has selected **D2L's Brightspace** as its new **learning management system (LMS)** following a highly competitive solicitation process that involved the industry's top LMS's.

"E&I's RFP team found that D2L was the superior choice in the LMS market for features, support, usability and sustainability," said E&I CEO Tom Fitzgerald. "That's not a determination we make lightly — when choosing a supplier for this contract, it was imperative that they offered a complete package with the greatest value for our members. We are confident that Brightspace will be a tremendous addition to our contract portfolio."

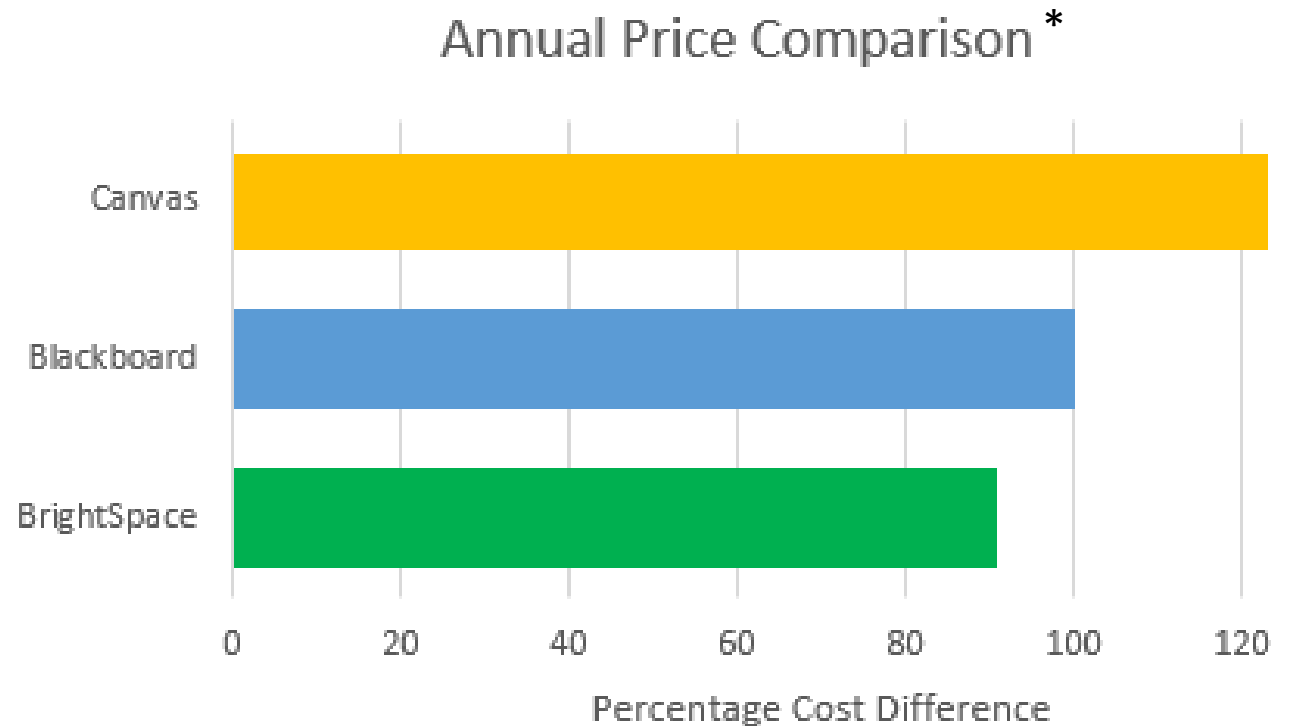Brightspace offers E&I members a solution that is:

- Easy–to–use for faculty, students and staff
- Completely redesigned, and a **cloud-native product**
- Able to integrate with other current campus systems
- Dedicated to providing outstanding technical support and implementation services
- Best-in-class in terms of its range of teaching and learning functionality
- Sustainably affordable for both **higher education** and **K-12** institutions

D2L
DESIRE2LEARN

8

Cost Comparison

* Based upon first year costs
- Canvas: +3% annual inflation
- Blackboard: +3-5% annual inflation
- Brightspace: 5 year fixed price

Annual Price Comparison *

- Canvas is 20% *more* expensive than Blackboard *
- Brightspace is 9% *less* expensive than Blackboard *
- Canvas is 31% *more* expensive than Brightspace *
- Brightspace are giving an additional 50% discount for 1st year to offset dual running while transition from Blackboard

Recommendation Summary

- Both products were considered functionally equivalent

- Transition to both products considered equivalent

- Technical and Security slightly favor Brightspace (D2L)

- Company profile of D2L much stronger than Instructure (Canvas) with Instructure ownership in flux

- Canvas pricing 31% higher than Brightspace

- Brightspace pricing 9% cheaper than Blackboard, and includes a 50% discount during the 1st year to offset dual running costs

The working group unanimously recommends Brightspace

NYFC PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1

Presently reads	Proposed to read	If adopted will read
Article II. Authority of the NYFC The NYFC is the legislative body through which the New York faculty makes decisions in areas of its determinative powers. The NYFC is also the mechanism for the NY faculty to make recommendations to the Board, the President of the university or other appropriate persons or bodies within and without the University. On matters of University-wide concern, the NYFC may vest its authority in its representatives to the JFC when the NYFC, by a majority vote, deems it appropriate to do so.	Article II. Authority of the NYFC The NYFC is the legislative body through which the New York faculty makes decisions in areas of its determinative powers. The NYFC is also the mechanism for the NY faculty to make recommendations to the Board, the President of the university or other appropriate persons or bodies within and without the University. On matters of University-wide concern, the NYFC may vest its authority in its representatives to the JFC when the NYFC, by a majority vote **OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING**, deems it appropriate to do so.	Article II. Authority of the NYFC The NYFC is the legislative body through which the New York faculty makes decisions in areas of its determinative powers. The NYFC is also the mechanism for the NY faculty to make recommendations to the Board, the President of the university or other appropriate persons or bodies within and without the University. On matters of University-wide concern, the NYFC may vest its authority in its representatives to the JFC when the NYFC, by a majority vote of those present and voting, deems it appropriate to do so.

Amendment 2

Presently reads	Proposed to read	If adopted will read
Article IV. Officers of the NYFC Section 3. Nomination and Election of Officers d) The Officers shall be elected by a majority of those present at the December meeting.	Article IV. Officers of the NYFC Section 3. Nomination and Election of Officers d) The Officers shall be elected by a majority of those present **AND VOTING** at the December meeting.	Article IV. Officers of the NYFC Section 3. Nomination and Election of Officers d) The Officers shall be elected by a majority of those present and voting at the December meeting.

NYFC PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Amendment 3

Presently reads	Proposed to read	If adopted will read
Article VI. Meetings Section 3. A Quorum A Quorum shall consist of 25 Council voting members. Each voting member of the council shall have one vote and a majority of the voting members present shall be necessary to pass a resolution.	Article VI. Meetings Section 3. A Quorum A Quorum shall consist of 25 Council voting members. Each voting member of the council shall have one vote and a majority of the voting members present **AND VOTING** shall be necessary to pass a resolution.	Article VI. Meetings Section 3. A Quorum A Quorum shall consist of 25 Council voting members. Each voting member of the council shall have one vote and a majority of the voting members present and voting shall be necessary to pass a resolution.

Amendment 4

Presently reads	Proposed to read	If adopted will read
Article VIII. Amendments Section 2. The Executive Committee shall place any proposed amendment on the agenda of the next regular meeting. At that meeting, the amendment shall be discussed, but shall not be voted on. At the next regular meeting, the proposed amendment shall be voted on. If the proposed amendment receives a favorable vote of the two-thirds of voting members present the amendment shall become a part of this constitution. A written copy of any passed amendment shall be sent to every member of the NYFC.	Article VIII. Amendments Section 2. The Executive Committee shall place any proposed amendment on the agenda of the next regular meeting. At that meeting, the amendment shall be discussed, but shall not be voted on. At the next regular meeting, the proposed amendment shall be voted on. If the proposed amendment receives a favorable vote of the two-thirds of voting members present **AND VOTING** the amendment shall become a part of this constitution. A written copy of any passed amendment shall be sent to every member of the NYFC.	Article VIII. Amendments Section 2. The Executive Committee shall place any proposed amendment on the agenda of the next regular meeting. At that meeting, the amendment shall be discussed, but shall not be voted on. At the next regular meeting, the proposed amendment shall be voted on. If the proposed amendment receives a favorable vote of the two-thirds of voting members present and voting the amendment shall become a part of this constitution. A written copy of any passed amendment shall be sent to every member of the NYFC.

NYFC PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Amendment 5

Presently reads	Proposed to read	If adopted will read
Article VI. Meetings Section 4. Order of Business At each regular meeting the order of business shall be: i. Approval of the minutes of the preceding regular meeting; ii. Announcements; iii. Committee Reports; iv. Reports from the Administration v. Old business; vi. New business.	Article VI. Meetings Section 4. Order of Business At each regular meeting the order of business shall be: i. Approval of the minutes of the preceding regular meeting; **ii. CLOSED SESSION OF VOTING MEMBERS** iii. Announcements; iv. Committee Reports; v. Reports from the Administration vi. Old business; vii. New business.	Article VI. Meetings Section 4. Order of Business At each regular meeting the order of business shall be: i. Approval of the minutes of the preceding regular meeting; ii. Closed session of voting members iii. Announcements; iv. Committee Reports; v. Reports from the Administration vi. Old business; vii. New business.

Chair's report

NYFC 3/11/20

Change in nomination/election procedures

Provost's office issued call for two committees:
1. President's Task Force on Mental Health & Wellness
2. The Student Advisory Committee

1 NYFC faculty needed on each committee

Problem: Provost's office asked for two nominees for each committee, and they would chose between the two.

Protest of procedure formally raised; Provost's Office not retreating

Information about the former University Senate

Thanks to:
Arthur Centonze, Carl Malinowski, Dan Baugher – Lubin
Michael Kazlow, Nancy Reagin, Harold Brown – Dyson
Ellen Sowcheck - University Archives

The former University Senate started +40 years ago

In approx 1968/9, the Administration formed the University Senate. The Senate included faculty, administration, and students. It is believed that the Senate was formed to give voice to the University community given campus agitation in the 1960s.

The membership of the Senate changed slightly over the years: in 1980, there were 73 representatives: 33 faculty, 22 students, 1 alumnus, 18 administrators. The Executive Committee was formed by selected admin/faculty/students.

The Senate met once or twice a year in rotating campus locations.

In practice, the Administration had the strongest voice, and the University President was always the President of the Senate (Mortola/Sharwell/Ewers etc).

Governance by the former University Senate

The Senate considered some University issues such as admission, enrollment, some finance and HR. The Senate was strongly guided by Mortola.
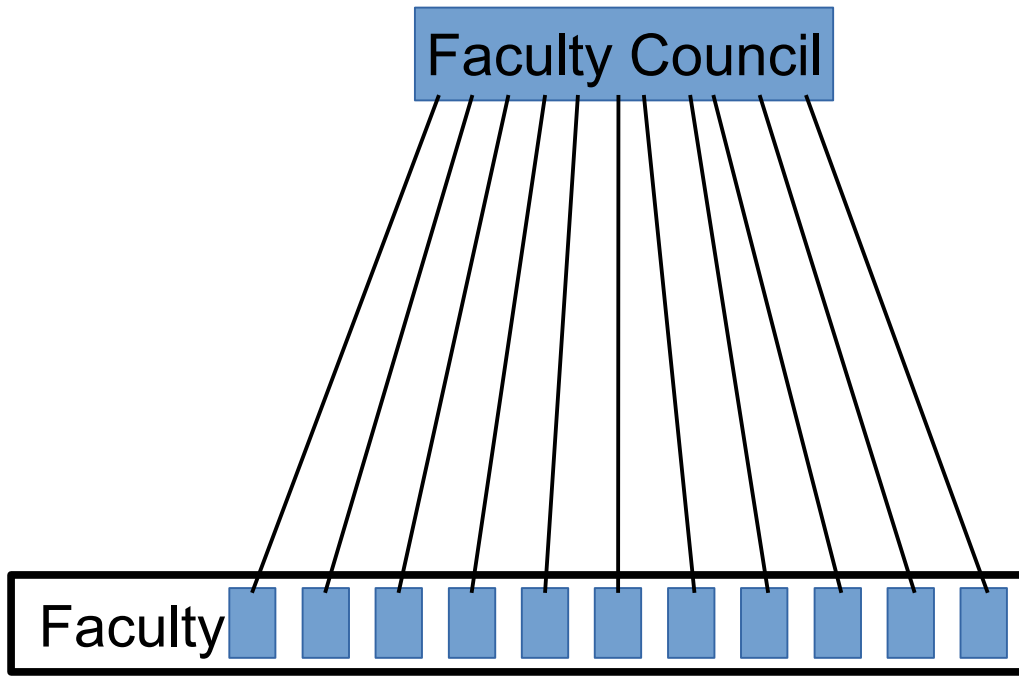
Of interest, the Senate did not consider faculty-specific issues: in 1985/1986, the Senate did not consider the Faculty Handbook AT ALL.

The Faculty Councils existed before the University Senate was created, and outlasted the Senate's demise. In 1986, the Faculty Councils approved the Faculty Handbook. Overall, the Faculty Councils had more impact.
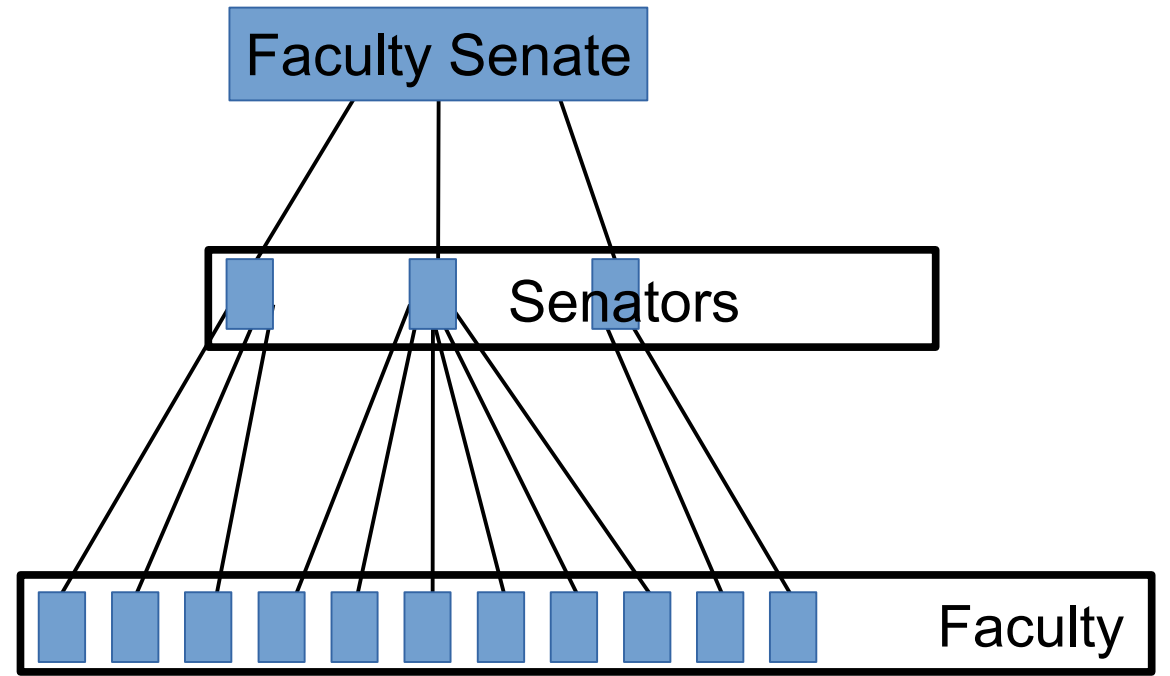
When Mortola left the Presidency in the mid-80's, the Senate was less used by his successors. By 1990, the Senate was debating how to close down.

The Joint Faculty Council was created to replace/dissolve the Senate – this is recorded in the JFC Constitution.

Faculty Senates are limited representation models

Every faculty has a vote/voice

Faculty talk to senators; only senators vote

The faculty who aren't senators will lose their voting privileges relative to the FC

Comparison between Council and Senate structures:

Council	Typical Senate
Chair	President of Senate (typical although title may differ)
Executive committee	Executive committee
Committee of chairs	(probably included in Senate)
Voting faculty	Only Senators vote
Open meetings for all	Closed meetings would exclude faculty

Summary:

1) No matter which Senate model is proposed, it will ONLY have advisory authority.

2) Most faculty (except senators) will lose their voting privileges

3) The governance structures will be similar or identical to the current Council structures.

4) Closed meetings prevent faculty from meeting as a whole.

5) Terms of office with much less interaction weaken the accountability of senators except at the end of a term – contributed to end of former University Senate

Multiple problems with some proposals to close faculty council meetings

Text of motion to close all meetings to administration: We move that until a majority vote of NYFC decides otherwise, all sessions of NYFC henceforth will remain closed to administration except by specific invitation. If any Faculty business requires the presence of administration, the relevant administrators will be invited according to the judgment and discretion of the NYFC Executive Committee

Multiple problems with some proposals to close faculty council meetings

A) Removal of rights
   Administration are non-voting members of FC – collegial interacting with faculty
   Even if allowed in by invitation, removal of rights is evident

B) Hostility in language/intent
   Hostile intent creates a hostile response
   Many FC motions do contain hostile wording – but FC motions don't strip intangible privileges

C) Slows down and breaks faculty governance
   Proposed motion puts at least a two month delay in faculty response/governance
   The rest of the University will NOT slow down for "faculty governance"
   End result is 1) less faculty governance and 2) more faculty frustration

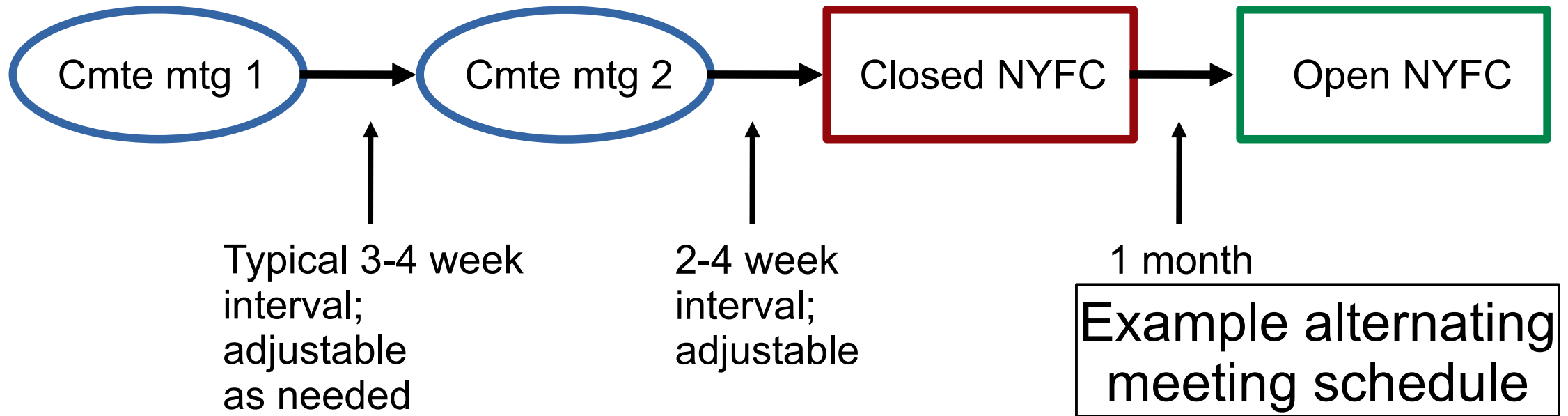D) Probable absence of administrators when requested
   Administration, like faculty, is very busy; rarely available when requested
   Faculty council meetings occupy "prime time scheduling"
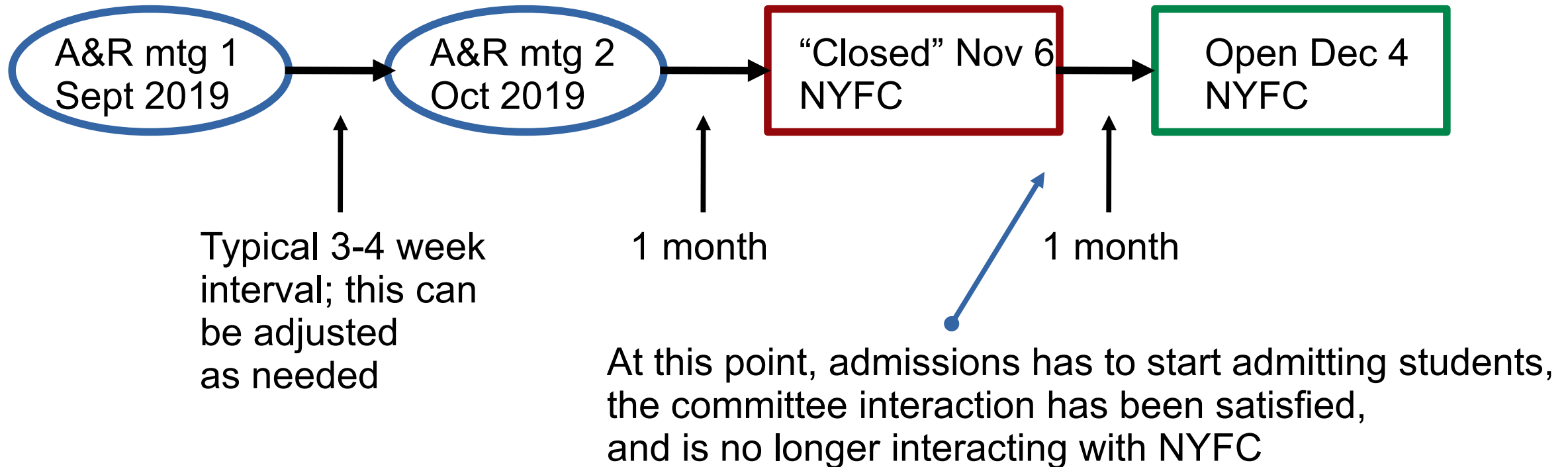   If not invited, administrators will gladly repurpose time allotted to FC meetings
   If choice between confrontational FC meeting and anything else? Guess which

Open meetings must follow closed meetings on the same day. Alternating meetings create an additional 1 month delay in the process of all large initiatives

Cmte mtg 1 → Cmte mtg 2 → Closed NYFC → Open NYFC

Typical 3-4 week interval; adjustable as needed

2-4 week interval; adjustable

1 month
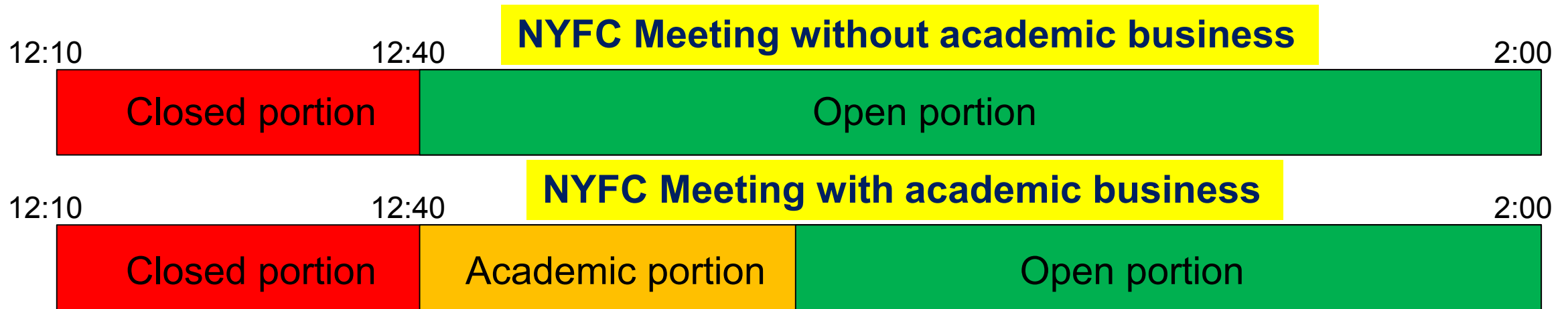
Example alternating meeting schedule

Consequence: pressure on administrators to bypass NYFC and just work with committees

Example of 1-month delay: Enrollment management's test-optional policy

A&R mtg 1
Sept 2019
→
A&R mtg 2
Oct 2019
→
"Closed" Nov 6
NYFC
→
Open Dec 4
NYFC

Typical 3-4 week interval; this can be adjusted as needed

1 month

1 month

At this point, admissions has to start admitting students, the committee interaction has been satisfied, and is no longer interacting with NYFC

2nd example of delay: Provost's and Dean's "gaslighting" of slow faculty review of online curriculum at Feb 2020 NYFC; proposed motion creates this problem

The only viable proposal to maintain faculty governance requires regular known scheduling of closed and open NYFC time

NYFC Meeting without academic business

12:10   12:40   2:00

| Closed portion | Open portion |

NYFC Meeting with academic business

12:10   12:40   2:00

| Closed portion | Academic portion | Open portion |

1) Every meeting starts at 12:10, closed 12:10-12:40; closed time ends strictly at 12:40

2) Every closed meeting calls for significant concerns until start of meeting; if few or no concerns, committees associated with later business report; specific administrators may be invited by Executive Committee. Concerns may be "upvoted" in closed session to prioritize discussion.

3) From 12:45 as needed, if there is academic business (eg curriculum, advising, faculty status) then meeting is open only to academic administrators (Provost/Deans)

4) After any academic business, meeting is generally open after a 5 minutes delay

2019-2020 NYFC Resolution Action Chart

Date	Text of resolution	Response/Resolution
10/2/19	**Admissions and Retention committee** 1. The use of curriculum maps should be program-specific. Worksheets and flow charts maybe used instead of curriculum maps to guide advisors and students. 2. That two faculty tracks be created – a professional track (for those faculty who excel in research mentoring and advising) and a scholarship track. 3. Specific measures to assess the effectiveness of mentoring and advising must be designed for the evaluation of the faculty performance.	Approved by NYFC 10/2/19 Sent to Handbook Committee
11/6/20	**Executive committee** proposes that untenured alternate seats be added to the following committees: • Academic Resources: 2 more untenured alternate seats (total of 4) • Budget: 1 untenured alternate seat • Buildings and maintenance: 2 untenured alternate seats • Calendar: 1 untenured alternate seat • Curriculum: 2 untenured alternate seats • Fringe Benefits: 1 untenured alternate seat • Handbook: 1 untenured alternate seat • Kenan: 2 untenured alternate seats • Public Relations: 2 untenured alternate seats	Approved by NYFC Election completed, committee chairs notified Updated committee list sent to webmaster
11/6/19	**Curriculum Committee** Proposal for change to BA Acting, BA Directing International Performance Ensemble	Presented 11/6/19 – Vote incorrectly interpreted as approved on 11/6/19, revised as **Not Approved** 12/4/19 Provost Office notified
11/6/19	**Student Affairs** 1. That this administrative advisory committee be	Approved by NYFC 11/6/19

Date	Text of resolution	Response/Resolution
	requested to operate in transparency and in consultation with the New York Faculty Council Student Affairs Committee.	Motion sent to Dean of Students and Provost's office. Student Advisory committee formed with 1 representative from NYFC Student Affairs committee.
	2. Student Affairs committee asks that the new advisory committee not just "serve as a resource" to Student Services but also to proactively draft policies and direct institutional resources to adequately support students with various immigration statuses.	
	3. That the university administration ensure up to date, consistent, and accurate information for DACA, undocumented, and immigrant students, in all communications, written or oral, from the University and its representatives, including clarifying the precise legal extent to which Pace is a "sanctuary campus."	
11/6/19	**Faculty Affairs** In the interest of creating confidence-building measures, to increase transparency regarding faculty governance, and to ensure adequate space for dialogue between faculty and administration, we, the faculty, request: 1. The parameters of participation are outlined in written before faculty commit to serving on "mixed" committees/task forces that include administration, such as the Provost's or President's Office. 2. Faculty expect to know, from the outset, whether their contribution to a committee/task force will only be advisory, that is to provide analysis and input, or if they will play a role in decision-making,	Approved by NYFC 12/4/19 Faculty Affairs Committee developed a form for administration to complete when recruiting for mixed ad hoc committees, this has been used since January 2020. Executive committee returned form to Faculty Affairs Committee for revisions to improve utility.

Date	Text of resolution	Response/Resolution
	for example, as voting members of a search committee. 3. We request that the administration involved in such committees provide written explanations that outline how each committee member's role is described, including how final recommendations/decisions are made and how other concerns in the committee are addressed.	
12/4/19	**NYFC membership** We, the faculty, hereby resolve that Executive Committee bring an AAUP representative, and/or as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee, other representative(s) to present to the faculty information regarding unionization and the pro and cons of unionized faculty at the University.	Approved by NYFC 12/4/19 NYFC Chair Dan Strahs has been discussing this with AAUP and AFT.
12/4/19	**Admissions and Retention Committee** 1. That the CAP program, in its logistics, admissions, student/advisor ratios, its curricular, and its co-curricular/support functions, should continue unchanged in academic year 2020-21 as it has in 2019-20 until the expansion plan is worked out by a "single" taskforce (possibly temporarily enlarging the PRESS task force) that brings all stakeholders (current CAP advisors/directors, English and Math departments, etc.) together to design the most effective and appropriate strategies 2. That a pilot study that will extend CAP-like services to additional at-risk students be implemented during the academic year 2020-2021 to test out some of the proposed changes aimed	Approved by NYFC 12/4/19 Motion sent to Provost's office by Chair Dan Strahs. No written response; only verbal response.

Date	Text of resolution	Response/Resolution
	at reducing the DFW rates. 3. That CAP-type students who have already been admitted and who would have been previously put into the CAP program, remain in the CAP program for 2020-2021. That the name of the CAP program is changed to the one that highlights the students' potential rather than deficiencies (ex. *Opportunitas*)	
12/4/19	**Admissions and Retention Committee** • That in the light of the national trends, SAT biases, and changes in admission strategies introduced by the universities in our metropolitan area, we support the new Test-Optional policy. • That test-optional students be identified and monitored and A&R be informed of their progress, so proper adjustments to the support services could be made. • That this test-optional policy or any other changes in admission standards do not lead to an increase in acceptance rates or/and a deterioration in the quality of accepted students.	Approved by NYFC 12/4/19 Sent to Provost's office and Director of Enrollment Management
2/5/20	**CDFPT recommendations**	All NYFC candidates approved Information sent to Provost office
2/5/20	**Curriculum Committee** Internal Review Grid approved with one amendment	Amended grid approved 2/5/20 Amended grid sent to Westchester Curriculum Committee for approval Provost Office notified
2/5/20	**Curriculum committee**	Approved by NYFC 2/5/20

2019-2020 NYFC Resolution Action Chart

Date	Text of resolution	Response/Resolution
	Executive MBA approved	Provost Office notified
3/11/20	**Amendments to NYFC Constitution** Amendment 1 to Article II. Authority of the NYFC Amendment 2 to Article IV. Officers of the NYFC Section 3. Nomination and Election of Officers Amendment 3 to Article VI. Meetings Section 3. A Quorum Amendment 4 to Article VIII. Amendments Section 2 Amendment 5 to Article VI. Meetings Section 4. Order of Business	All accepted by NYFC Updated Constitution circulated to faculty and will be added to NYFC website