The eighth meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m., 27 April 2006, in the Board of Trustees Conference Room. Senators present: Steven Cecchetti, Bulbul Chakraborty, Jon Chilingerian, Richard Gaskins, Ira Gessel, Margie Lachman, Harry Mairson (Chair), Leonard Muellner, Laura Quinney, Aida Yuen Wong. Senators absent: Marc Brettler, William Flesch, Jane Hale, Jytte Klausen, Robert Moody, Richard Parmentier.

Chair Harry Mairson announced that Professor Marc Brettler will be on leave during year two of his three-year tenure on the Senate. The Senate Council has recommended that the Senate appoint a one-year replacement rather than call an election in this special case. With the concurrence of the Council, the Chair asked Professor Eugene Sheppard, also of NEJS, to serve for one year during Professor Brettler’s absence. He agreed, and the Senate also concurred.

Policy on Harassment/Discrimination
The Faculty Senate was asked to review a policy statement [Problem Resolution and Appeal Procedure for Claims of Harassment/Discrimination] by the Office of Human Resources. This document had already been reviewed by the Senate during the previous academic year (2004-05), and amended to accommodate suggestions made by the Senate.

After some discussion, Senators expressed their basic approval of the statement, but asked the Chair to communicate with Debra Gratto, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, to clarify language in the “Appeal Process” section of the document. The concern of several Senators was that the appeal process make clear that appeal was not made to peers, but to those with greater decision-making authority: managers, department chairs, or deans, as dictated by the specifics of the situation. The Senate agreed that Human Resources should modify the document as they see fit in light of this suggestion, and that no resubmission to the Senate is necessary.

Guidelines Regarding the IBS Dean Search
The Chair reported that, as a consequence of productive discussion with the Provost, there is now a protocol in place that will underline essential faculty participation in the selection process for the Dean of the International Business School, and set a precedent for collaborative procedure in future Dean searches for the University. Provost Marty Krauss and the Senate Council agreed to the guidelines which inform the Senate Council on essential information regarding candidates judged by the Search Committee as qualified for appointment, with the opportunity to receive a fuller briefing on the candidates and to communicate its appraisals to the Provost, prior to appointment.

Reports from Faculty Governance Committees
The Chair requested short reports from various academic governance committees, so that the Senate and Faculty could see what they did during the past academic year. These included the school councils, the Finance and Budget Committee, the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, and the Rights and Responsibilities Committee.

The school councils functioned to approve new courses, mostly through email correspondence. The Humanities council reported composing a mission statement for the humanities, working with Publications to complete the first issue of the magazine.
Dialogue, and beginning long-term thinking about creating a humanities center on campus.

The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee participated in a subcommittee for the reaccreditation process, developing a report on trends and issues in recruitment, enrollment, and student performance. Their report will serve as part of a baseline for discussions and decisions to take place in the fall. They also served as consultants to Jean Eddy, the Senior Vice President for Students and Enrollment, in the recruitment of a new Dean of Admissions.

The reports of the Budget and Finance Committee and Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee are attached.

Recognition of Promoted Junior Faculty
The Chair informed the Senate that he is delivering champagne to recent members of the junior faculty who have been awarded tenure, with the best wishes of the Senate and Faculty. He acknowledged the Provost’s willing participation in supporting this gesture. A prescient and preemptive bottle was presented to (Senator) Aida Yuen Wong, with applause and best wishes. A less expensive bottle was shared by those present, in her honor, to conclude the last scheduled meeting for the academic year.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.