The first meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m., 31 August 2006, in the Board of Trustees Conference Room. Senators present: Stephen Cecchetti, Seth Fraden, Richard Gaskins, Ira Gessel, David Jacobson, Harry Mairson, Leonard Muellner, Richard Parmentier, David Rakowski, Eugene Sheppard, Malcolm Watson, Aida Yuen Wong. Senators absent: Jon Chilingerian, William Flesch, Laura Quinney, Govind Sreenivasan.

Election of the Senate Chair and the Senate Council
Professor David Jacobson opened the meeting and conducted the election of the Chair of the Senate for 2006-07. Professor Harry Mairson (Computer Science) was elected Chair; Professors Steven Cecchetti (International Business School), Seth Fraden (Physics), and Laura Quinney (English) were elected to the Senate Council. Professor Richard Parmentier thanked Professor Mairson for his contributions as Senate Chair last year.

[Subsequent to the meeting, Professor Quinney, who was elected in absentia, informed the Chair that due to professional obligations and her being on leave for the fall semester, she would not be able to serve on the Council. With the prior concurrence of the other members of the Council and then the Senate, it was decided to elect a replacement by an email protocol, rather than call an extraordinary meeting. Professor David Rakowski (Music) was elected to the Senate Council.]

Dates for Faculty Senate meetings
The Senate will meet during academic year 2006-07 from 3-5:00 pm, on the following dates: 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, 18 January, 15 February, 22 March, 26 April.

Senate agenda for the coming year
The Chair outlined some possible issues and ideas for the Senate’s consideration during the coming academic year, and his suggestions were augmented by various recommendations made by members of the Senate. The ubiquitous issue of parking for faculty was raised, particularly in the context of the disappearance of a central parking lot over the summer. The Chair informed the Senate of a recent communication by a parent, expressing concern over the University’s use of student information by commercial vendors. This question will probably be taken up at the next meeting in a larger discussion of privacy issues.

Much of the work of the Senate over the past two years has been in response to external circumstances and events, some of which were difficult. The Chair expressed a hope that the Senate could initiate some modest actions which would serve to benefit the working conditions of the Faculty. He also expressed a desire to seek out some cooperative ventures which emphasize a commitment to collaboration between the Senate and the administration.

Handbook changes
Professor Gaskins, a member of the Handbook Committee (which includes Bulbul Chakraborty, Richard Parmentier, Laura Quinney) said there are some issues left over from last year which need to be addressed. He said that a set of questions for the extension of the tenure clock was left unresolved. The committee will take the guidelines (recommendations) to the faculty meeting for discussion. The committee needs more faculty members to take proposals to the faculty or the Senate for further discussion.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.