Information for Students Seeking Positions as Student Senator

The following information has been compiled in order to ensure that students with a serious interest in making legitimate contributions to the NYU governance system are aware of the enormous responsibility and time commitment involved in being a Student Senator.

OVERVIEW

The Student Senators Council (SSC) is the representative body for all students at New York University, and it is the advocate for the protection and promotion of the interests, rights and responsibilities of students in all aspects of life at the University. The SSC is also a deliberative body for the discussion of University-wide policies and proposed changes in University policies and structure affecting student life at the University. The SSC is a constituent body of the University Senate (Senate), the chief deliberative body of the University for discussion of all matters of University policy and practice. Any resolutions or votes that occur in the Senate must, however, be approved by the highest power of the University, which is the Board of Trustees. The University Senate is currently made up of the following:

- Executive Committee (President, Secretary, Council Chairs – 6 Members)
- Administrative Management Council (5 Members)
- Deans Council (15 Members)
- Faculty Senators Council (36 Members)
- Student Senators Council (23 Members)

Through its committees and subcommittees, the SSC takes special responsibility for bringing to the attention of the Senate all matters concerning student life at the University.

The most notable SSC committee is the University Committee on Student Life (UCSL), which, as the broadest-based student group on campus, oversees the general quality of student life and transmits policy recommendations to the SSC. It is the responsibility of the SSC to see that the UCSL is active and productive. The membership of the UCSL consists of the entire Student Senators Council, as well as designated representatives of various other student governance groups, most notably the presidents of all school councils. The UCSL works through its own committees and subcommittees to govern and coordinate student activities on campus.

MEMBERSHIP

The Student Senators Council is composed of 23 members that the students of the various schools and colleges of the University elect 16 as school senators:
Seven Student Senators are appointed At-Large by the Executive Committee of the Senate with the advice and consent of the elected Student Senators. These At-Large Senators are selected for the purpose of providing continuity within the membership of the SSC from one year to the next or to represent special student interests not otherwise represented by the elected Senators (such as those who represent commuter students, international students or any combination of special interests).

All Student Senators are eligible for membership on any available Senate, SSC, or UCSL committee.

As specified in the Senate Rules of Procedure, each student body authorized to name a Senator is authorized to name two Alternate Senators.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT SENATORS**

It is the responsibility of each Senator to consider carefully and responsibly all matters that may come before the Senate, the SSC and the UCSL, and to act in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of each of these organizations. Each student senator has a duty to fairly and capably represent the students of his/her constituency to the best of his/her ability.

Each senator is expected to attend all duly called meetings of the Senate, the SSC and the UCSL. (Each alternate senator is expected to attend any duly called

* For the purpose of SSC membership, the School of Medicine and the Post-Graduate Medical School are considered as one school.
meeting of the Senate, the SSC, or the UCSL at which that person is to substitute for a designated senator.) In addition, each senator (and alternate senator) is expected to attend all duly called meetings of any Senate, SSC, or UCSL committee of which that person is a member.

The overall quality of a student senator's performance is only partially determined by the meetings s/he may attend. A Student Senator will also need to do extensive "homework" in order to understand all the issues requiring his/her attention. Much of this “homework” entails reading through the documents that the Executive Committee makes available for perusal. These documents serve as great resources to become acquainted with past procedures, policies, initiatives and struggles. In addition to apprising oneself of past issues, student senators should engage with their school's dean and associate deans, especially the school’s Office of Student Affairs. This is so if at any point in the future the senator needs help reaching out to the student population of his/her school, they are familiar with those who can help best.

Aside from becoming aware of past SSC procedures and issues, the standing committees that comprise the Senate, SSC and UCSL are vital to the operation of our University.

- The Senate's committees consist of Student Senators, Faculty Senators Council, Deans Council and Administrative Management Council members – the opportunity to engage in conversation with these individuals is not one to take lightly.
- The Student Senators Council committees are the same as those that exist in the Senate – their purpose in the SSC is to help all senators become aware of the issues those committees are facing and working on.
- The University Committee on Student Life committees cater to special interests, just like what the committee itself does. Committees like Graduate Affairs, Student Services and Academic Services all exist to help those specific groups and to ensure that all student populations are being taken care of.

These committees have power to change things at our University, so while membership is sometimes voluntary, as a senator representing a large constituency, your place and representation of your school is highly valued and extremely important. Attending your committees’ meetings on a regular basis is another expectation.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The University Senate generally meets on a Thursday of each month at least six times during the academic year from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
The SSC generally meets two Thursdays of each month of the academic year from 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. (5:30 P.M. when UCSL does not follow) – if necessary, additional meetings may be called at other times and during the summer months.

The UCSL usually meets one Thursday of each month of the academic year from 5:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. These meetings usually follow one of the two SSC meetings in a given month.

Meetings of the various committees of the Senate, the SSC and the UCSL are scheduled each year by the members of each committee and therefore a definite schedule cannot be detailed.