

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

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Department of Politics

1 May 1974

Dean Robert Mc Kay, Chairman
Committee on Powers of the Senate
New York University

Dear Bob,

I am submitting through Professor and Senator Levine, as per Mr. de Capriles' letter to the faculty, the attached proposal entitled, "Senate Model IV, A Representative Government for New York University."

The administration of the University and the Senate deserve much praise, in my eyes, for the progressive moves that they are making.

As my proposal discloses, I believe that they can go all the way to democratic self-government and thereby set up an example for the world to follow.

Sincerely yours,



Alfred de Grazia
Professor of Social Theory
in Government

Senate Model IV
A Representative Government
for New York University

The University Senate would be reapportioned to become a representative assembly of the total University community. It would be given the general legislative powers of University government. At the same time, a Constitution would be adopted to provide responsible representative government overall. The President and other leading officials would become elective. A rule of law and guarantees of academic freedom would be instituted. The Charter of the University would be interpreted and amended to permit these things.

The following principles may be considered:

- I. The concerned constituencies of NYU consist of:
 - a. The students, full and parttime.
 - b. The Faculty and professionals
 - c. The administrative staff.
 - d. The trustees, alumni, and other special friends of NYU.
 - e. The public, local, national, and world.
 - f. Those with special relations as contractors and donors.
- II. All constituents need actual representation in NYU government. This is to be achieved minimally by the right to vote and to hold office. Voting may be single, multiple, and in such proportions, as the Senate deemed logical and adjusted to interests.
- III. A rule of law and academic freedom shall characterize internal processes of the University. Minimally, these consist of: the right to present grievances and to be represented in the process, whether in response to disputed general rules or individual orders; the right to be fully informed of University decisions and finances; the right to criticize and form parties in opposition to (or support of) the incumbent officials and policies of the University.
- IV. The Organs of NYU government would be the Senate, the President, the Schools organized in representative Assemblies, a Student Assembly, An Internal Staff Assembly, an External Delegate Assembly, the Departments and Special Substantive Academic Programs, and a University Court.
- V. The Senate would hold all legislative powers of the University. All organs can propose rules for their procedures and policies, but they must pass without challenge in the Senate to become effective, and if challenged must gain a majority in consent.

Senators would be elected for three years by the Assemblies and Departments. The President would be elected by the Senate on a majority-forcing type of ballot cast among candidates nominated one each by each Assembly. The President serves at the pleasure of a majority of the Senate or a majority of the other Assemblies voting as units.

The Senate would be elected by the several organs of University government, excepting the President and the Court, and be apportioned among the organs in proportion to their number of members, students and budgets in a ratio to be determined by the Senate.

Senators may choose to serve the Senate full-time and be carried on their constituents' budget.

VI. The apportionment of Assemblies may be determined by the Senate. The Heads of Schools and Departments and Programs would become elected. The External Delegate Assembly might consist of the Trustees ex officio, representatives of the public chosen by the Senate and Assemblies; representatives of the alumni chosen by lottery among volunteers; and representatives of donors and contractors chosen by the Senate and other Assemblies.

VII. The powers of the several Assemblies, the Courts and the Departments would be allocated to by the Senate. The Senate would guarantee to each Assembly and Department a representative form of government, and guarantee to all University community members access to the Court for determining abuses of power.

Some of the implications of the above principles may be summarized:

1. The legal presumptions of the Board of Trustees would be drastically modified, with its actual delegated and removed powers shifting from the administration over to the Senate and all-University structure.
2. A large and true accountability is assured. All elements of the University community will share in responsibility. As a result, the University will become more cohesive; its center of equilibrium will shift to the academic and scientific forces.
3. Academic freedom will acquire new meaning, and extend far beyond the narrow concerns of tenure.
4. University decisions will be representative of the perceptions, interests, and ideals of the whole University community. There will be an end to mock representation by pliant favorites on hosts of advisory committees; representation will be independent and authoritative.
5. Decentralization is stressed but coordination is ensured through ample channels of responsibility, and necessary exchanges of information. This contrasts with the present hierarchichy-special interest tug-o-war.
6. Organized, open opposition to the ruling group at any time is encouraged. A party system may develop as a critical instrument and cross-university mobilizing forces on general issues.
7. Financial and other executive information is vested with a public character. Just as there would be no advice without authority behind it, there would be no authority without knowledge.

8. Grievances are remedied as a matter of right and according to due process of law.

9. Increased concern and participation would be promoted throughout the quarter of a million University constituents.

10. Because of its great and concerned constituency, the financial reach and grass of the University should increase markedly.

11. NYU would be structured to exert maximum thrust and pressure on the external political and public environment on matters of critical interest.

12. The University will act as well as talk in the language and promise of a free and open society.