

DCC Meeting Summary: August 26, 2009

The Dean's Curriculum Committee (DCC) met for the first time on Wednesday, August 26; we will be meeting semi-weekly for the foreseeable future. The formation of this committee was recommended last spring by the CARS Committee, and the Committee was formed over the summer in line with the CARS Committee recommendation. Its members are:

Adam Jaffe, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Chair

Prof. Jane Kamensky (nominated by the Social Science School Council)

Prof. John Burt (nominated by the Humanities School Council)

Prof. Judith Eissenberg (nominated by the Creative Arts School Council)

Prof. Liz Hedstrom (nominated by the Science School Council)

Prof. Rick Parmentier (nominated by the Chairs of Interdepartmental Programs)

Supreetha Gubbala (nominated by the Student Union)

Greg Freeze, Dean of GSAS

Elaine Wong, Senior Associate Dean of A&S

Meeting Summary

Committee members discussed the DCC's charge, function and ground rules. The Committee's role is to advise the Dean on the management of the curriculum, and to develop proposals for policies and procedures for the Dean to review with other bodies as appropriate. We agreed that despite the nomination process we would all strive to work for what we thought best for Brandeis, rather than representing a particular constituency. We also agreed that we would provide brief summaries of each meeting to the faculty, and that it would be important also to discuss the Committee's work with other bodies such as the UCC, the GSC, Department and ID Program Chairs, School Councils, and the Faculty Senate.

1. We reviewed a number of CARS recommendations requiring further input for implementation:
 - a. Formation of curriculum committees for each major
 - b. Implementation of faculty affiliations
 - c. Streamlining of major/minor requirements;
 - d. Re-evaluation of CARS departmental faculty target sizes
 - e. Rules for low enrollment courses
 - f. General review of the success of the effort to increase the "efficiency" of the overall curriculum.

2. Topics a, b, and c from the above will be discussed at the Department Chairs' meeting on Sept. 3. The DCC discussed guidelines for these that will be distributed in draft form to the Chairs and discussed at that meeting.
3. We also indentified four CARS recommendations that we will leave to the Dean to work on with other bodies:
 - a. Policy/process for possible increase in workload for faculty who are not contributing on all three dimensions of scholarship, teaching and service (discuss with Faculty Senate)
 - b. Possible revamping of teaching of statistics (discuss with relevant departments)
 - c. "Dual" listing of courses in the course schedule in more than one department or program (discuss with Registrar)
 - d. Independent General Education Requirement ("IGERT") (discuss with Student Union and UCC)