BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

Meeting of the 2012-13 Faculty Senate
This meeting was held on January 16, 2013 from 1:00-3:00 in the Shapiro Student Center Room 313.

Present: Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Eric Chasalow, Matthew Headrick, Marya Levenson, Thomas Pocahpsky, Carol Osler, Esther Ratner, Ellen Schattschneider, Liuba Shrirator, Cindy Thomas, Joseph Wardwell
Absent: Elif Sisli Ciamarra, Joseph Cunningham, Barry Friedman, Charles Golden, Andrew Molinsky, Fernando Rosenberg, Harleen Singh

Handbook Amendment on Dispute Resolution
The Faculty Senate has received revisions to the Handbook Amendment on Dispute Resolution in response to the concerns expressed by the Senate during the November 11, 2012 meeting. The new language was discussed by the Senate and minor grammatical revisions were suggested. These suggestions will be submitted to CFRR along with the approval of the Senate.

Committee to Address Sexual Violence on Campus
A concern was brought to the attention of the Senate that the committee to address issues of sexual violence on campus has yet to be formed. The Senate will urge the Provost to make this a priority. There was also an issue raised regarding a student committee that has been formed on campus and whether or not this committee is taking on the same charge as that suggested to the Provost for a Faculty committee. If so, the suggestion was made that these two committees coordinate their efforts.

Strategic Planning
Chasalow provided an update to the Senate on the work of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. One area of particular interest was the work of the Strategic Initiatives Writing Group. This group compiled all of the strategic initiatives suggested within the original documents and drafted a process by which to analyze each proposal based on criteria such as: is it strategic, is it scalable, is it a priority, etc.

Chasalow and the Council presented two particular areas for Senate consideration: multi-degree programs and online/distance learning. These areas in particular would be of interest to the Faculty at Brandeis, and therefore, areas in which the Faculty Senate might be able to take a proactive role. Some of the issues from these areas were the role of faculty in online learning, issues of tuition and space with these initiatives, and the need for increased support for the role of teaching and mentoring. The Senators discussed the role of the Senate in proactively raising these topics and the mechanism by which they might facilitate these discussions.

New Business
A question was brought to the Senate regarding a timeline for decisions in cases of promotion. The Senate is investigating whether or not such a timeline exists as a policy within the university.

The Senate also discussed whether or not Senators should take a role in reporting Senate news to their respective departments/schools.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.