Meeting of the 2010-11 Faculty Senate

The meeting was held on January 20th, 2011 from 3:00pm-5:00pm in the Shapiro Student Center Room 313.

Present: Bishop, Dibble, Flesch, Garnick, Hall, Herzfeld, Hickey, Lichtman, Meyer, Molinsky, Morrison, Nandakumar, Ratner, Rosenberg, von Mering
Absent: Burt, Nelson, Parmentier,
Guest: Provost Marty Krauss

Approval of Senate Minutes from November 11th, 2010
Minutes from November 11th meeting were approved.

Report on Activity of Senate Council Since Last Meeting
• The members of the Faculty Senate solicited nominations from the faculty at large for the search committee for the next Provost. The Senate members then ranked the nominees received from the faculty, via email. While the Senate has no direct power to appoint faculty to this committee, President Lawrence agreed to discuss the nominations presented by the Senate Council. President Lawrence, after finalizing the list, contacted all members of the committee to request their participation.
• The Senate is currently soliciting nominations for the search committee for the next Senior Vice-President of Student enrollment. There have been fewer nominations from the faculty for this committee, but the committee should be named soon.
• The Academic Symposium to honor Jehuda Reinharz was a great success with around 150 people in attendance.

Discussion of Goals for Remainder of the Academic Year
• HR/Academic Freedom report- A copy of this report has been sent to President Lawrence for review. It is the hope of the Senate that all documents affected by this report will be adjusted and harmonized by the end of the Spring 2011 semester. It was brought to the attention of the Senate that it will be necessary to establish a handbook committee, which is a Senate appointed committee, before the handbook revisions will be able to move forward.
• Workload Report- The Workload Report has not been enacted yet. While there is currently no requirement that the Faculty Senate provide more input on this report, it was decided that it might be useful for the Senate members to continue gathering information to pass on to Dean Jaffe.
• Invited Guests- The Faculty Senate developed a list of guests that they would like to invite into the remaining meetings this semester to discuss various topics. Among those mentioned were: Dan Terris and Fran Drolette.

Faculty Survey
The survey to solicit faculty input on major areas to be addressed by the Senate was discussed. They were ranked in order as follows:
1) DAS Search
2) Provost search
3) Budget deficit
4) Student academic experience
   a. It was suggested that the Senate revisit the report on undergraduate
      experience that was presented at an earlier faculty meeting. The Senate
      Council is also planning a meeting with the student leadership. However,
      after rereading the report, the Senate might decide to bring someone in to
      full Senate, not just a Council meeting. There was a question regarding the
      increase in admitted class sizes and the effect this might be having on the
      academic experience. It was suggested that the Senate might invite Rick
      Sawyer or Mark Collins in to discuss facilities for increasing enrollments.
      There was also interest in hearing from the Budget Committee Chair on
      this issue, and specifically how the increase in admittance is impacting,
      positively or negatively, the budget crisis.
5) Faculty/administration
6) Demands on faculty time
   a. It was suggested that the Senate review the list of committees currently in
      place at Brandeis to determine if any of these can be merged, reduced, etc.
7) Administration restructuring
   a. LITSAC future structure of the library report will go to President
      Lawrence soon. This will include the committee’s decision on whether or
      not to create a new CIO position as well as the desire to hire a new
      university librarian. The question was raised as to whether or not the
      Librarian should be a tenured position.
8) Centers and institutes

Provost Marty Krauss
Provost Marty Krauss joined the Faculty Senate at 3:30 to discuss a few specific topics.

- **Implementation of the recommendations of the Centers and Institutes Report**-
  Krauss has asked that all directors of centers and institutes who report to
  the Provost submit a description of the role a Faculty Steering Committee might
  play in their particular center or institute. Some of the areas currently have strong
  committees, but others do not and rely on external feedback and support. Krauss
  has assured these areas that there is no need to create something if what they have
  is working successfully, but that even these areas should internalize the
  recommendations of the report. The Provost’s office will set up a template for the
  types of roles that faculty should be playing in the centers and institutes. This
  will be made available to the staff of the centers and institutes, followed by a
  series of meetings with the staff and faculty who might be interested in joining
  one of these steering committees. Krauss stressed that if an institute currently
  houses a functioning steering committee that is external, it could be possible to
  add faculty to those groups.

- **Associate Provost for Assessment**- NEASC (New England Association of
  Schools and Colleges) is interested in the development of a plan for the
  continuing assessment of student learning outcomes. At first, this position of
  Associate Provost for Assessment was an advertised position, but it was then
  suggested that this could be an opportunity for a current faculty member. This
  position would replace half of a faculty member’s course load, with that half of
the faculty member’s salary being paid by Provost’s office. A committee was formed to review applications and there should be an announcement in a couple of weeks. The Provost stressed that while this is a new position, the functions of this position have always existed. Initially the appointment would be for one year, but could then be extended for an additional two-years. The Provost will tell the Senate the name of the person chosen, and allow for an opportunity for feedback.

- **Proposal for UAC to set Academic Priorities for Brandeis**- One recommendation from the review of the Centers and Institutes was that there be a committee that looks at overall priorities of the university, including Centers and Institutes. It was suggested that the UAC could assume this role. At the last UAC meeting, the committee discussed whether or not the UAC could redefine the purpose and responsibilities of this group in terms of taking on a leadership role within the university. It was determined that the authority to do so was provided by the handbook. If this suggestion moves forward, the UAC would review policies and funding in consultation with Provost. The committee also discussed which additional members should be added to the UAC to make the organization a truly robust group. Some suggestions were members of the Centers and Institutes, Development representation, etc. The UAC would become a committee with outside work and possibly several subcommittees. The Provost would serve as chair of this committee, as well as the Integrated Planning and Budget Committee, which would provide overlap between the two areas of university priorities and budgeting. The UAC would be charged with developing a set of priorities that would guide the university, with budget discussions referencing these priorities. President Lawrence will attend the next UAC meeting to further this discussion.

After Provost Krauss left the meeting, the Senate discussed the idea of the UAC as a governing body further. It was decided that before the next meeting, the Senate should discuss who should be added to the UAC, the type of subcommittees that could be formed, and the type of structure that should be in place to implement the ideas of the committee. The Faculty Handbook states that the Provost and the Senate Council jointly determine the members of the UAC. It was clear the handbook would not need to be changed to allow the additional members, as it states that the Provost can make other appointments to the UAC.

**Additional Items to Discuss**

- **Proposal to push for a strategic plan for Brandeis**- Please see above discussion of the UAC committee.

- **Proposal to post median course grades on transcripts**- This idea was suggested as a way to possibly a way to relieve the pressure of grading and fear of taking certain classes. If the median grade were posted on a transcript, then a class that is graded harder would be more accurately represented. It was suggested that this idea be put to the new Associate Provost for Assessment to consider. If this does become a proposal, the senate should discuss it further.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.