BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING 2 – 2016-2017

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA

Thursday, October 13, 2016
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Mandel Center for the Humanities, Room 228

OUTCOMES
♦ Confirm Timeframes, Nominations and Process for Faculty Governance Task Force
♦ Confirm Timeframe for Advancing Proposed Faculty Handbook Legislation

AGENDA

2:30 P.M. WELCOME

➢ Remarks from the Chair & Council
  • Discuss and Confirm Timeframes, Nominations and Process for Faculty Governance Task Force: Aligning & Distinguishing Goals, Structures & Practices
  • Review the Council’s Timeframe for Advancing Proposed Faculty Handbook Legislation (proposed schedule will be disseminated at the meeting and will include:
    o Revisit Senate Resolution to Express Consensus on the Matter of Broken Trust and Lost Contribution to Faculty and Staff Retirement Funds)
  • Update on Meetings with President/Provost & Chair of the Board of Trustee
  • Invitation & Senate Role for President Liebowitz Inauguration Thurs., Nov. 3, Gosman Sports Arena (see attachment)
  • Updates/Announcements
    o Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) Consultation
    o Feedback on Financial Health and Structure of the University Open Meetings
    o Unanimous Support for Student’s Proposed Resolution on Changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day and Related Ideas (see attachment)
o Review Request from Ethics Center Director, Prof. Cynthia Cohen, for Senate Sponsorship or Involvement for ’DEIS Impact, The Festival of Social Justice, Jan/Feb 2016 (see attachment)

o Review Request from Bernadette Brooten Regarding the Task Force for Sexual Assault Response, Services and Prevention (see attachment) – for discussion at Nov 4th Faculty Senate Meeting

➢ Report from Faculty Rep. to the Board of Trustees Dan Bergstresser and Discussion

➢ Remarks from Provost Lisa M. Lynch
  • Academic Freedom and Free Expression

3:30 P.M. ADJOURN

ATTACHMENTS

➢ President’s Special Invitation to Faculty Senate for Inauguration (email Oct 5, 2016)
➢ Provost Invitation for Pres. Liebowitz Inauguration (email Oct 6, 2016)
➢ Senate Resolution on Student Proposed Indigenous Peoples’ Day (September 30, 2016)
➢ Proposed American Indian Scholarship Idea from Michael Henchman (email Oct 4, 2016)
➢ Sponsorship/Involvement Request for ’DEIS Impact from Cynthia Cohen (email Sept 28, 2016)
➢ Request to Report to Faculty Senate on Task Force for Sexual Assault Response, Services and Prevention from Bernadette Brooten (email Sept 30, 2016)

PRESENT: Susan P. Curnan, Chair, Dan Bergstresser, Joe Cunningham, Elizabeth Ferry, Eli Hirsch, Adrianne Krstansky, Sarah Mead, Paul Miller, Thomas Pochapsky, Raj Sampath, Laurence Simon, Faith Smith, John Wardle

ABSENT: Jane Ebert, Kathryn Graddy, Laurie Nsiah-Jefferson, (and Kate Moran on leave fall 2016, Susan Parish on sabbatical fall 2016)

GUEST: Provost Lisa M. Lynch

2:30 P.M. WELCOME

Due to schedule conflict, the Provost remarks were reordered to come first on the agenda.

➢ Remarks from Provost Lisa M. Lynch
  • Provost Lynch described the structure and purpose of the new Presidential Task Force on Free Expression.
The Task Force under development will include Faculty, Staff and Student representatives.

The purpose of the Task Force will be to research, discuss and inform Brandeis' definition and principles of Free Expression.

The outcome is expected to be expanded and clarified recommendations for the Faculty Handbook.

The Faculty Senate will play a key role in review and recommendations of Handbook legislation.

The Committee will issue a report with recommendations, which may be accompanied by a minority report, which would be reviewed by the Faculty Senate and the University Advisory Council, and ultimately, the entire Faculty.

- Provost Lynch invited the Senate to join upcoming meetings on academic freedom, Friday, Oct. 21st with Kent Lawrence, Executive Director of the Bauer Foundation. The purpose is to discuss possible support for a speaker series on Free Expression.

- At the request of the Senate, the Office of the Provost is reviewing and centralizing policy information on the Provost website for researchers and Faculty.
  - Ed Hackett is working a new research webpage to highlight projects and serve as a resource for Brandeis researchers.
  - Provost Lynch agreed with Senators that this is also a good opportunity to clarify what the Faculty Handbook should include and what policies are best left on the Provost website.

- The Provost reported that there have been two collective bargaining sessions in the last few weeks and things are progressing. The initial contract review process often takes a long time due to the length and detail of the draft.

- There is a University Policy Committee which makes recommendations to the President on policies at the University that are not covered elsewhere.
  - The Committee includes the Provost, General Counsel, Executive VP for Finance and Administration, VP of Human Resources, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, and Marianne Cwalina, Senior VP for Finance, and others.
  - As an example, one policy under development is a University policy on accessing digital content.
  - The Provost and Senators discussed the urgency of developing this new policy and Senators described the importance of involving Faculty Senate representation on the policy committee.

- The Provost confirmed that a summary report to the Brandeis community is forthcoming based on the presentations from the October Open Meetings on the Financial Health of the University.

Provost Lynch exited the meeting.

☐ Action Item: Senators would like the Chair to send a note to the President & Provost to request that the Faculty Senate weigh in on the University Policy Committee recommendations and actions and or have a seat on the President's leadership team.
Report from Faculty Rep. to the Board of Trustees Dan Bergstresser and Discussion

- Prof. Bergstresser reported on the September meeting of the Board. This was a special meeting, devoted to three large topics:
  - The first topic was a review of the recommendations of a Board task force on the committee structure and composition of the Board. The overall purpose of the changes is to align the Board’s structure with the University's mission. The recommendations were adopted unanimously.
  - The second topic was a presentation by the consultant Mark Neustadt of a preliminary report on marketing and communications. The basic theme was aligning the public presentation of Brandeis with our own understanding of our identity. Mr. Neustadt highlighted the need to acknowledge our uniqueness as a non-sectarian university founded by the American Jewish community.
  - The third topic was a presentation by the consultant to Kermit Daniel on the University's finances. The major theme was that our small size and great complexity, combined with a small endowment, pose problems for our long-term financial stability. Mr. Daniel has also presented his report at open meetings on campus.

- The Senate Chair said that in addition to being a Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, Prof. Bergstresser is also on the Investment Committee. The Chair of the Board of Trustees named other Faculty representatives on Board committees, including Susan Parish on the Academy Committee, Wendy Cadge on the Risk Management and Audit and the Coordinating Committees, Liz Hedstrom on the Institutional Advancement Committee and Susan P. Curnan, ex officio, on the Resources Committee.

Remarks from the Chair & Council

- The Chair made announcements per the agenda, including Senate sponsorship of the DEIS Impact event and the request from faculty member Bernadette Brooten to report to the Senate, which were agreed to by all Senators.
- The Chair circulated four handouts for review and discussion (handouts circulated to the Senate electronically following the meeting):
  - Senate Resolution to Express Consensus on the Matter of Broken Trust and Lost Contribution to Faculty and Staff Retirement Funds (Posted April 2016) and the CONFIDENTIAL Revised Draft – Senate Resolution to Express Consensus on the Matter of Broken Trust and Lost Contribution to Faculty and Staff Retirement Funds (Draft for Senate Review - Oct. 13, 2016)
  - CONFIDENTIAL - Working Draft - Schedule of Faculty Handbook Legislation
  - CONFIDENTIAL - Handbook Legislation – Proposed for November Faculty Meeting
- Senators revisited the Resolution to Express Consensus on the Matter of Broken Trust and Lost Contribution to the Faculty and Staff Retirement Funds and agreed to its content. Next step will be to review with President and Provost.
- Senators reviewed the Faculty Handbook Legislation schedule for 2016-2017 Faculty Meetings and agreed with the timetable and topics while acknowledging it is “ambitious” and will likely change.
Senators reviewed the proposed Faculty Handbook changes, including who presides at Faculty Meetings, Emeriti representation on the Faculty Senate, and Dean Appointments/Extensions/and Renewals and agreed to move forward with this legislation with some edits to wording of to be reviewed by the President and Provost as final step before going to the faculty.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted on October 14, 2016 by Lanni Isenberg.