Meeting of 2011-12 Faculty Senate

The meeting was held on November 29th, 2011 from 12:30-2:30 in Shaprio 313


Absent: Susan Dibble, Robert Meyer, Andrew Molinsky, Sacha Nelson,

Guests: Perry Hansen and Bob Sekuler

Approval of Senate Minutes of November 4th Meeting
Senators will approve minutes via email.

Results of Senate Survey
Top rated issues from the faculty survey the strategic planning process, the financial health of Brandeis, and faculty compensation. The next tier contained contract faculty issues, demands on faculty time, and improving the student academic experience.

A discussion of the strategic planning process centered on the role of the Senate in this process. It was agreed that the Senate should be active in encouraging faculty outreach on strategic planning and possibly developing new faculty initiatives to assist in gathering faculty input. It was stressed that the role of the Senate must continue to be to continue to raise issues of particular concern to the faculty, regardless of whether they are issues that are involved in the strategic planning process, such as contract faculty issues and faculty salary.

Since Tim Hickey and Fernando Rosenberg are both members of the Strategic Plan Committee, they have agreed to update the Senate, as appropriate.

Discuss Open Source Initiatives
Perry Hansen and Bob Sekuler met with the Senate to present information on the LTSAC’s push toward open source publishing. There is a document available on the LTSAC website that reviews the issues. There proposal necessitate a shift in publishing model that requires some community consensus and discussion. Hansen and Sekuler reported to the Senate that many schools are aggressively participating in open source publishing, for various reasons. Financial reasons are one major consideration. Library resources budgets are limited and have not increased over the last six or seven years. Academic publishers have mandated that in order to subscribe to one or two journals, you must take an entire package. Elsevier Publishing alone will account for 17% of the entire library acquisitions budget. In addition to financial considerations, there is a societal
benefit issue. Sekuler stated that if we want to make information available to people broadly and in developing countries, it is important to consider this model.

They are requesting that Brandeis set a policy to allow for public repository. The Senate has suggested that this issue be added to an upcoming faculty meeting agenda.

**Open Senate Issues**
The Senate will be bringing in someone from student life in the spring to discuss sexual violence on campus.

The Dean would like the Senate to address part-time tenure track policy.

The Senate Council and President have reached a compromise on the Academic Freedom policy. A document will be updated and circulated to the Senate members.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:10**