The fifth meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 p.m., 18 January 2007, in Levine-Ross. Senators present: Stephen Cecchetti, Seth Fraden, Richard Gaskins, Ira Gessel, David Jacobson, Harry Mairson (Chair), Leonard Muellner, David Rakowski, Govind Sreenivasan, Malcolm Watson. Senators absent: Jon Chilingerian, William Flesch, Laura Quinney, Richard Parmentier, Eugene Sheppard, Aida Wong.

Discussion of Future Agenda Items
The Senate considered several agenda items for future meetings. Senators agreed that two issues, which had been briefly discussed at the last Senate meeting, would be appropriate: the funding and staffing of library facilities, and email security and privacy rights. Professor Gaskins said that the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities is working to clarify some of the relevant issues dealing with the university’s policy on managing email. The Chair was asked to contact Perry Hanson, Chief Information Officer and Associate Provost for Educational Technology, to address these related issues with the Senate at a future meeting.

President Jimmy Carter’s Visit to Brandeis
The Chair asked the Senate whether it wanted to comment publicly on the President Carter’s visit. Senators agreed that although the Senate, as a body, had not invited the former President to visit campus, it had asked the administration to work cooperatively to follow up on the report of the Committee on Exhibitions and Expression (“Voices of Palestine”) by inviting speakers to campus. When the administration declined, both the Senate and the Senate Council had further deliberation concerning how to proceed.

Comments by Senators included the following: one Senator asked whether the Chair, in such a case, can act as a private citizen; for example, make exploratory inquiries. Another felt that the Senate Council should not feel constrained, but should nonetheless inform the Senate regarding its proceeding. One Senator expressed concern that there is a perception that the Chair represents the opinion of the Senate. This, concluded one Senator, is a lesson for the future. Now there is an official committee that has invited President Carter to campus; the Senate, as a body, did not endorse the visit.

Course Banking/Accounting
The Chair distributed to the Senate the draft of a proposal for course banking that Dean Adam Jaffe and he had written jointly. (A copy is attached.) The Chair said that the draft has been reviewed by department chairs and further revised. The Dean, he said, supports the present form; the department chairs have expressed mixed feelings, largely due to the complication inherent in implementation. The goal of course banking is to enhance the life of the faculty by providing freedom to pursue creative and research endeavors, while continuing their administrative responsibilities such as student advising. He asked the Senate to review the draft and offer suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.