Minutes of the Third Meeting 25 October 2007

The third meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:10 p.m., 25 October 2007, in the Board of Trustees Conference Room. Senators present: Marc Brettler (Chair), William Flesch, Seth Fraden, Ira Gessel, Jody Gittell, Eric Hill, Robert Moody, Leonard Muellner, Richard Parmentier, David Rakowski, Govind Sreenivasan, Ilan Troen. Senators absent: David Jacobson, Harry Mairson, Catherine Mann, Malcolm Watson.

Report from the Chair
Chair Marc Brettler reported that the Senate Council had met with Provost Marty Krauss. Two of the issues discussed were the appointment of the Dean of the Heller School (which the Senate took up later in the meeting) and the establishment of the position of Associate Dean for the International Business School. Provost Krauss said that she intended to appoint Professor Trenery Dolbear to the newly created position of Associate Dean for IBS. The Chair reported that the Senate Council approved the creation of the position and Professor Dolbear’s appointment.

Policy Regarding Senate Minutes
The Chair said that the minutes of Senate meetings should be an accurate representation of the Senate’s discussions, delivered to the faculty in a timely fashion. In response to one Senator’s request, Senators took up the discussion of how much of their deliberations should be included or omitted from the minutes. Some Senators felt that the minutes should contain a summary and conclusion of the discussion; some felt that more detail is warranted. The Chair concluded that the minutes should contain details of the discussion when issues of significant faculty interest are addressed and that the minutes should reflect the tone of the discussion. However, the minutes should not be a recapitulation of the discussion or of individual concerns. One Senator pointed out that guests (as well as Senators) attending Senate meetings often ask to speak off the record, but we have not allowed this in the past. Senators accepted the possibility of appending the minutes with a statement drafted by, and attributed to, an individual Senator.

Search for a New Dean of the Heller School
The Chair reported that, in accord with the guidelines outlined in the Faculty Handbook, Professor Thomas Shapiro, Chair of the Search Committee for a new Dean of the Heller School, shared with him information on the final candidates for the position. The Senate’s responsibility, said the Chair, is to make certain that the final candidates are qualified and that the appropriate process has been followed. Senators, who had received the candidates CV’s prior to the meeting, agreed unanimously that each candidate is qualified to be Dean of the Heller School. The Chair assured the Senate that proper tenure mechanism will be followed after the appointment is made.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee
The Chair reported that the Provost and the Senate have appointed three new members to the
committee: Edward Bayone, William Flesch, and Jody Gittell.

Firearms Safety Committee
The Chair circulated to Senators a memo he had received from President Reinharz, which asks the Senate to nominate two faculty members to participate in the Firearms Advisory Committee. The mandate for the committee is to advise Public Safety on the development and communication of firearms policies and procedures that will allow for a successful community supported safety program on campus. The advisory group will include two representatives each from the faculty, the undergraduate student body, the graduate student body and the staff of the university. Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Peter French will chair the advisory group.

The Chair said that he believes that the President’s memo reflects some flexibility, and that some issues of concern to faculty members are open for discussion. After deliberation, the Senate agreed to nominate two senior faculty members: Robert Moody (Theater Arts), and Paul Jankowski (History).

Contract Notification
The question of how faculty receive the news of their annual salary reviews was brought to the Dean of Arts and Sciences Adam Jaffe and to the Senate Council. The Chair suggested that one member of the Senate be selected to meet with the Dean, and University Counsel Judith Sizer to discuss the procedure. William Flesch, a member of the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee, agreed to serve. He will report back to the Senate.

Senate Participation in the Dean of Arts Sciences Plans to Discuss Reorganization
The Chair reported to the Senate that Dean Jaffe has shared with the Senate Council his thoughts, and those of the Dean’s Faculty Advisory Committee (Marc Brettler, Bulbul Chakraborty, Eric Chasalow, Tom King, Margie Lachman, Dan Perlman), on reinvigorating the School of Arts and Sciences. The Chair said the plan, which will be released and revised, would have a great impact on the structure of the university. The Dean, he said, is concerned that there be a broad discussion of the issues and adequate faculty involvement in the process. The School Councils have been asked to respond to the Dean’s and Advisory Council’s recommendations.

The Chair asked Senators if they were comfortable with the Senate’s playing a central role in the deliberations. One Senator said that the School Councils might not be neutral because the report is likely to remove power from departments and transfer it to the School Councils and to programs. The Dean, he said, is anxious to promote interdisciplinary programs at the cost of departments, and that a push towards interdisciplinary programs weakens traditional departments and the role of department chairs. After some discussion Senators agreed that the Senate should ask the Dean of Arts and Sciences for copies of the reports from the four School Councils before consulting with the Dean on how to proceed.

New Items for Discussion
- The Chair will invite University Counsel Judith Sizer to the next Senate meeting to discuss software available to determine plagiarism.
- The Senate will discuss the idea of paid leaves being granted to senior faculty to conduct their
research (between sabbaticals).
  • The Chair will look into a parking plan that will help mitigate difficulties encountered by faculty and staff.
  • The Senate will discuss the matter of course banking, which was raised during the 2007 spring semester, and approved by the department chairs in consultation with the Dean of Arts and Sciences.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.