The Faculty Senate met from 3:00-5:00pm in the Conference Room, Shapiro Admissions Center

Present: Bishop, Herzfeld, Hickey, Hill, Garnick, Mann, Mapps, Meyer, Morrison, Nelson, von Mering

Absent: Burt, Dibble, Flesch, Gittell, Moody, Parmentier, Troen

Appointment of Faculty Advisory Committee to the Presidential Search

The Senate reviewed the results of the faculty vote for representation to the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Presidential Search. Results were as follows:

School of Creative Arts: Jonathan Unglaub
School of Humanities: Robin Feuer Miller
School of Science: Irv Epstein
School of Social Science: David Cunningham
Heller School: A.K. Nandakumar
IBS: Brad Morrison
At Large: Anita Hill and Aida Wong

Sabine von Mering, as the Chair of the Faculty Senate, will convene the first meeting and preside over the election of the chair of the committee.

Senate Leadership Elections: Handbook Revisions

The Senate discussed a proposed amendment to the Faculty Handbook that would change the date to elect the Senate leadership. The proposal suggests that the elections be held at the end of the academic year, following Senate elections. The newly elected chair and council would not assume their responsibilities until the start of the academic year, but the early election would allow for a period of transition and more continuity. There were suggestions made to clarify the language of the amendment. The suggestions have been resubmitted to the Handbook Committee.

Survey Results

The preliminary results of the faculty survey instituted by the Senate were discussed. It was decided that the survey should be closed prior to the Dec. 3rd faculty meeting so that the Chair of the Senate can report the findings to the faculty at that time.

There was also a discussion among the present Senate members about the ways in which issues raised from the survey should be addressed by the Senate. Some suggestions were
made, and it was decided that the Senate would discuss the necessary actions again once the survey has officially closed.

**Agenda Items for December 3rd Senate Meeting**

A special meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on December 3rd, 2009. The Senate will be joined by Malcolm Sherman, the chair of the Board of Trustees, and Meyer Koplow, the chair of the BoT’s Presidential Search Committee and Budget Committee. In preparation for this meeting, the Senate members developed a list of agenda items and questions that will be communicated by vonMering to Sherman and Koplow. Suggested agenda items were as follows:

1) The Senate's involvement in the creation of a case statement
2) A discussion of the "Vision for Brandeis 2020" elements of the faculty survey [and the senate hearings]
3) Improving communication between the faculty and the Board of Trustees, including the possibility of faculty presentations to the Board and inviting the Board members to sit in on classes etc.
4) Role of the Advisory Committee in the Presidential Search
5) Discussion of the University budget, with Meyer Koplow as the Chair of the Budget Committee

**Budget Discussion**

The Senate discussed the current state of the budget and options being considered to close the deficit. The discussion centered on opinions held by the faculty at large, and the request was made that individual Senators reach out to their schools and departments to gain a better understanding of public opinion.

The idea was generated to ask Jeffrey Apfel and the Faculty Budget Committee to hold the same type of workshops held by Peter French last year in order to update the faculty on the current state of the university budget. It was also suggested that Apfel could present the options for closing the FY 2011 budget gap at the next faculty meeting.

**Faculty Meetings Agenda Items**

The Senate discussed items that they would like to add to the agenda of one of the next Faculty Meetings. It was agreed that the Senate would request updates on the budget, development, and the new directions in communications.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.**