BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING #5 – 2018-2019

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA

Tuesday, January 22, 2019
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Mandel Center for the Humanities, 3rd Floor Reading Room (303)

Feel free to bring your lunch
Cookies will be provided

12:30 P. M.  Welcome to Senators, President Ron Liebowitz, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Meyer Koplow
  ❖ Open Discussion on “Framework for Our Future”
    (https://www.brandeis.edu/framework/strategic-objectives.html)
    including discussion of the three Task Forces and the President’s
    Springboard Funding Plan with Board of Trustees Chair, Meyer Koplow, &
    President Ron Liebowitz

1:15 P.M.  Thank you to President & Chair as they take their leave
Closed Senate Session
  ❖ Update and Next Steps on Faculty Governance Legislation, Proposed
    Amendments and Dignity at Work Task Force Recommendations

2:00 P.M.  ADJOURN

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PRESENT: Susan P. Curnan, Chair, Daniel Bergstresser (via phone), Bernadette Brooten, Joel Christensen, Jennifer Cleary, Susan Holcombe, Danielle Igra, Dmitry Kleinbock, Sarah Mead, Kate Moran, Carol Osler, Rajesh Sampath, Liuba Shrira, Laurence Simon

ABSENT: Joseph Assan, Jane Ebert, Adrienne Krstansky, Raphael Schoenle, Faith Smith
Welcome to Senators, President Ron Liebowitz, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Meyer Koplow

- The Senate Chair welcomed Meyer Koplow, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and President Ron Liebowitz to the meeting. Both offered opening remarks, including praise for the Senate and Faculty and its role in shared governance.

- The Senate Chair introduced the topic of the day with a look back to 2017 when the Senate designed and facilitated a faculty retreat to understand how faculty were, or were not engaged in shared governance and to determine the degree of meaning, transparency, influence and impact.

  o The Senate asked 3 questions:

    1) **Who** is the faculty? (Rank across the University Schools & Divisions) and how has it changed over the last decade?
    
    2) **How** is the faculty engaged in strategy and planning?
    
    3) **Who** should be involved in shared governance and how can committees and other pathways to decision making be improved?

  o The Retreat revealed “hanging committees” with bridges to nowhere, many questions were raised about the impact of faculty time on policy and the question of faculty composition was unclear to all.

  o In those conversations, the Faculty also raised questions about the role of the Board of Trustees and the role of the President.

- The Board Chair described the role of the Board and also about how the Board has changed thru four Faculty Representatives and the Senate Chair as *ex officio*.

- The President then talked about the “Future Vision” for Brandeis and the three newly launched Task Forces and asked Senators for their feedback and anything on their minds. See “A Framework for Our Future”: [https://www.brandeis.edu/framework/](https://www.brandeis.edu/framework/)

- Senator comments included the following:

  o Importance of addressing housing and child care costs/subsidies for faculty
  
  o Equity in contracts and workloads for multi-year contract faculty (e.g., 15% payment per course vs. 25% for tenure and tenure-track Faculty)
  
  o Valuing and rewarding community engaged scholarship and service
  
  o Continued use of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) lens when recruiting and hiring staff and faculty

- Open conversation followed, ending with appreciation and thanks to Meyer and Ron for their support of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Governance altogether.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Senate Administrator Lanni Isenberg on behalf of Senate Chair Susan P. Curnan, April 22, 2019