



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Senate Update to the Faculty September 15, 2017

As Chair of your Faculty Senate, it is a great joy and privilege to welcome you all to the first Faculty Meeting of the year.

As some, but not all, of you know, the Senate is the representative body of the faculty as a whole. The Senate may initiate discussion on any issue relevant to the educational and research missions of the university or the provisions of the Faculty Handbook, including but not limited to academic freedom; the rights, responsibilities, work schedule, salary and benefits of faculty members; university policies regarding faculty appointments, tenure, promotion, and dismissal; and university rules and regulations as they affect faculty. Our scope of attention is broad and reflects the priorities of the Faculty in the context of an evolving framework of shared governance with the President, Provost and Trustees as appropriate. Please reach out to your Senator, the Senate Council, and/or to me directly with your ideas, innovations, questions and concerns. Our door is always open. The Faculty Handbook (http://www.brandeis.edu/provost/faculty-info/faculty_handbook.html) is our go-to source for faculty governance. I invite you to familiarize yourself with it if you haven't already.

Faculty Senate Council, 2017-2018



Susan P. Curnan (Chair)
At-Large (The Heller School)



Sarah Mead
Music/Creative Arts



Kate Moran
At-Large
(Philosophy)



Laurence Simon
The Heller School for Social Policy &
Management

Faculty Senate, 2017-2018¹



Joseph Assan
The Heller School for Social
Policy & Management



Daniel Bergstresser
International
Business School



Joel Christensen
Classical Studies/ Humanities



Jennifer Cleary
At-Large (Theater
Arts)



Joe Cunningham
Psychology/
Social Science



Jane Ebert
International
Business School



Elizabeth Ferry
At-Large (Anthropology)



Anita Hannig
Anthropology/ Social
Science



Susan Holcombe
Emerita (Heller)



Adrienne Krstansky
Theater/ Creative Arts



Paul Miller
Biology, Computer
Science/ Science



Carol Osler
At-Large
(Economics/ IBS)



Raj Sampath
At-Large (The Heller
School)



Faith Smith
African & Afro-American
Studies & English/ Humanities



John Wardle
Physics/Science

¹ Note: Our most recently elected Senator, Anita Hannig, replaces Prof. Kathryn Graddy from the Social Science Division. Congratulations, Senator Hannig! With a two-candidate Senate race too close to call, Prof. Marya Levenson withdrew and announced she is "very pleased that Anita is going to represent Social Science faculty on the Senate this year" and looks forward to working with us. Thank you, Marya, for your kindness and generosity.

This brief update from the Senate, as with updates from the President & Provost, replaces the traditional report-out at the Faculty Meeting with the hope of allowing more time for Q&A and discussion. There is no attempt to be comprehensive, but rather make mention of some key activities and potentially spark conversation at the meeting or thereafter. We have invested in creating a new webpage on faculty governance and have also updated the Senate web page to improve timely communication with the faculty.

UPDATE

The Senate held its first meeting of the year earlier this week on September 12th from 7:30a-9a. I attach the agenda for the meeting to give you a sense of the Senate's scope of attention. Minutes will be posted next week.

As a partner in governance of the University, the Senate Council, and the full Senate, consults on many policies and procedures such as the Provost's proposal on **Phased Retirement** and the **General Education Task Force** recommendations for curriculum change. The Senate also initiates efforts to explore matters of great concern to the faculty such as the **Dignity at Work Task Force** and the **Faculty Governance Task Force** – both of which will present reports to the full faculty by the end of the fall semester.

Please see the Faculty Senate webpage for updates, meeting minutes and background materials; <http://www.brandeis.edu/faculty-senate/>.

The **Faculty Governance Task Force**, co-chaired by the Senate Chair, is well underway after a summer launch and two meetings so far this semester. Huge thank you to Task Force members, **Sava Berhané, Co-Chair Wendy Cadge, Jody Hoffer Gittell, Adrienne Krstansky, Anne Marando, Michael Randall, Robert Reitano, Gina Turrigiano, Pu Wang and Bernie Yack**, and to our stellar governance consultant, **Susan Resneck Pierce**, who is also consulting with the Board of Trustees on governance matters.

We are dedicated to transparency in the process and urge to you to take a close look at our new web page (<https://www.brandeis.edu/faculty-senate/FacultyGovernanceTaskForce.html>).

Thank you to the 237 faculty who responded to our Faculty Governance Survey last spring. You will find an Executive Summary of the Survey on the web page along with an Executive Summary of the Peer Review Report prepared by Susan Resneck Pierce, as part of our study.

Susan will be on campus later this month conducting interviews and focus groups. If you have not yet **registered for one of the faculty sessions**, please do so soon:

<https://goo.gl/forms/dKS3cBLgu9XDpmW82>

Faculty Representation to Board of Trustees

The Senate Chair serves ex officio on the Board and joins four elected representatives: Senator **Daniel Bergstresser, Wendy Cadge, Elizabeth Hedstrom and Anne Olga Koloski-Ostrow**.

Earlier this week, we had the opportunity to meet with both the President and the newly elected Chair of the Board of Trustees, **Meyer G. Koplou** (<https://tinyurl.com/y85o6u6x>), to learn more about the year ahead from their perspective and to offer our perspective as well. I believe it is fair to say, we are all looking forward to a very good year.

"Brandeis Faculty are the heart and soul of what is the jewel of Brandeis."

– Meyer Koplou, Chair
Brandeis Board of Trustees

"...my respect for the faculty and the quality of the academic program exceeds the already-high level I had earlier discovered on the basis of the "due diligence" I performed during the presidential search. This is central to my optimism about our university."

- Ron Liebowitz
President

We are in this together.

Finally, a word of thanks to all those who made this campus a warm and welcoming one for our entering and returning students this year. As you read in the President's letter, the convocation and "first years" move-in and orientation were fantastic by any measure. Kudos to the Administrative Leadership and teams, both on stage and behind the scenes, that made this enormous transition for students, parents, faculty and staff a great success. On a personal note, as the parent (P'21) of a "first year," I witnessed the joy of new Brandeisians and the kind, hard work of our custodial and food service staff, care takers in community living, student teams, inspired faculty and academic support services staff. It was a beautiful start to an exciting year. Thank you all for what you are doing to make this a safe, supportive and excellent center for learning and growing.

spc
9.15.17



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING 1 – 2017-2018

AGENDA

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Hassenfeld Conference Center, Geller Room
Coffee & Bagels will be served.

Connection via Zoom webconference: <https://brandeis.zoom.us/j/957659484>

Connection by phone: Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll), Enter Meeting ID: 957 659 484

7:30 A.M. WELCOME

Chair & Council Updates & Action Items

- Faculty Meeting Roles & Improvements
- Search Committees
- Senate Representative to Alumni Board
- Trustee Retreat
- New Tenure Promotion Committee
- Dignity at Work Group Task Force
- **Action Items:**
 - Phased Retirement Proposal from Provost (attached)
 - Resolution and Background Information from Faculty Against the Climate Threat (FACT) (attached)

7:45 A.M. – 8:25 A.M. Proposal for a New General Education Curriculum

- ❖ Presentation & Discussion with Dean Susan Birren, Arts & Sciences

8:25 A.M. – 8:55 A.M. Chair Introductory Discussion on Faculty Governance Task Force

<http://brandeis.edu/faculty-senate/FacultyGovernanceTaskForce.html> (key docs attached)

8:55 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. Pending Agenda Items for October 17th Senate Meeting

- Dialogue with President & Provost, including Reflection on Reflection Process
- Proposal for Graduate Certification in College Teaching (attached)
- Ideas/Opportunities for Faculty to Engage with Media (attached)

Attachments:

- ❖ Phased Retirement Proposal from Provost
- ❖ Resolution and Background Information from FACT
- ❖ General Education Curriculum Proposal and Timeline
- ❖ Faculty Governance Task Force Documents
 - Executive Summary of Brandeis Faculty Governance Survey (Sept. 6, 2017)
 - Executive Summary of Peer Institutions (Aug. 17, 2017)
 - Faculty Governance Task Force Notes from First Meeting (Aug. 31, 2017)
- ❖ Itinerary for Governance Consultant, Susan Resneck Pierce

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Fall 2017 Faculty Senate Meetings

at the Hassenfeld Conference Center, Geller Room
(7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.)

Tuesday, September 12th

Tuesday, October 17th

Tuesday, November 14th