

# **BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**

Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Thursday, March 26, 2009

The Faculty Senate met from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Trustees Conference Room

Present: Flesch, Jacobson, Troen, Gittell, Herzfeld, Fraden, Bishop, Watson, Mairson, von Mering, Hill, Garnick.

Absent: Mann, Sreenivasan, Moody, Morrison, Rakowski.

## **Development and Alumni Relations**

Nancy Winship has asked the Senate to nominate faculty for a committee established to rejuvenate alumni/donor giving. The Senate's discussion focused on the possible time commitment and specific faculty responsibilities toward the committee. Those in favor feel that this is just what the faculty has been asking for – to be heard and invited to contribute to Development's mission. Nancy will be asked to draft a paragraph of the position for faculty distribution. Nominees are still welcome.

## **Website Redesign Committee**

The Senate discussed Lorna Miles's request for faculty participation on a committee to redesign the University Website. The Senate Chair will request details of the charge and expected responsibility of faculty who serve on the committee from Lorna Miles for further discussion.

## **CFRR New Joint Statement**

The Senate commended the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities for the final revisions made to the joint statement of the Administration and the CFRR about the dispute resolution process. A suggestion was made to act quickly in approving the revision as issues for CFRR may come up quickly once the Committee on Academic Restructuring issues its recommendations and the process of considering and implementing them goes forward. The Senate unanimously agreed to support the CFRR's New Joint Statement and the Senate Chair will read it at the April 2 Faculty Meeting with CFRR's approval. The Senate unanimously agreed to the Chair's reading the statement to the Faculty Meeting. The statement reads as follows:

To protect and strengthen the dispute resolution process, and in a spirit of mutual respect, the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (CFRR), the Faculty Senate, and the University administration affirm their common understanding of certain basic principles. All agree to abide by provisions of the Faculty Handbook regarding the respective roles of the CFRR, the Dean, and the Provost in the dispute resolution process.

The CFRR interprets the Handbook on behalf of the faculty, and faculty have a

right to rely on CFRR's interpretations of Handbook rules and procedures as being the interpretation of the faculty. In accordance with Section VII.A.3.b. of the Handbook, if the Academic Dean rejects a specific judgment of the CFRR, he or she must give a substantive reason for the rejection, fully and fairly addressing the arguments made by the CFRR in support of its opinion. The Dean's grounds for rejecting an opinion of the CFRR cannot be cited as precedent in future cases or procedures. To resolve differences of opinion, the Dean shall work prospectively with the CFRR and the Senate to clarify or change the Handbook.

All parties to the above agreement pledge to protect the integrity of the dispute resolution process, while working in constructive ways to resolve differences in how rules are to be interpreted in future situations.

### **Schemes to reduce compensation to provide budget relief**

After a brief discussion by the Senate of faculty preferences with regard to proposals temporarily to reduce either the University contribution to 403b retirement accounts or salaries, the Senate Chair proposed sending a request for clarification of the proposal to the President, the Provost, and to Peter French with a copy to Peter Conrad, chair of the University Budget Committee. The main questions raised were whether the faculty will have a choice between the reduction in university contributions salary cuts, and furthermore, whether individual faculty might be given that choice? Will the proposed cuts be for a fixed term e.g. one academic or fiscal year? Would it be possible to offer faculty deferred compensation instead?

### **Faculty Representation on the Integrated Planning Committee and on the University Budget Implementation Committee**

The Senate Chair will request clarification of both committees before there is further Senate discussion of involvement, which the Provost has said she endorses in principle. The Senate thought that faculty participation on those committees should be determined by position, e.g. that the Senate Chair would have a seat on one or both of those committees.

### **Adjournment**

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:00 p.m.