

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Third Meeting 13 November 2008

The third meeting of the Faculty Senate was held at 3:00 pm, 13 November 2008, in the Board of Trustees Conference Room. Senators present: William Flesch (Chair), Seth Fraden, Deborah Garnick, Judith Herzfeld, Eric Hill, David Jacobson, Harry Mairson, Catherine Mann, Robert Moody, David Rakowski, Sabine von Mering, Bradley Morrison, Malcolm Watson. Senators absent: Christine Bishop, Jody Gittel, Govind Sreenivasan, Ilan Troen. Visitor: Aida Yuen Wong, chair of the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Announcements

Meeting will adjourn at 4:20 so most senators can attend emergency faculty meeting for Arts and Sciences faculty being held at 4:30.

Fall Calendar

The Faculty Senate voted to request that classes not be held on the day before Thanksgiving in 2010 and 2011, realizing full well that it may not be possible to do the same in 2012 when more of the Jewish holidays fall on weekdays. A memo to that effect will be sent to: Marty Krauss, Mark Hewitt, Lisa Lynch, Adam Jaffe, Bruce Magid, Jean Eddy and Jehuda Reinhartz.

Discussion of the Financial Crisis

The Senate continued discussing the financial crisis, and expressed particular interest in job security for tenured and tenure track professors and for contract faculty, both adjunct and full- (or fuller-) time. The provost has given assurances that the administration will not cut salaries, though there is likely to be a de facto salary freeze. The chair asked the senators to consider over the next few weeks whether they thought any faculty might be willing to volunteer to take a 1% salary reduction to help reduce the number of staff layoffs that seem inevitable.

Hiring freezes have been broadly instituted, where appropriate (that is, unless firm commitments have been made or positions are fully funded by external grants or similar sources), and the operating budget has already been cut and will undergo further cutting.

USEM Status

The Senate discussed pros and cons of maintaining the University Seminar system as-is. Currently USEM is required for entering undergraduates and is taught by tenured and/or tenure-track faculty. The Senate will consider proposing that this course become voluntary to relieve teaching load.

Course-Banking

The Senate voted (all ayes except for two abstentions) to support a course banking system in Arts and Sciences, in which faculty

- 1) will be able to cash in banked courses one for one, with no exemption from committee work; but
- 2) can bank one additional course beyond those banked for the one-for-one trade in; this additional course could then be redeemed for full Sabbatical exemption in the semester that a faculty member

would also have earned full exemption from teaching. A memo to that effect was sent to Adam Jaffe with the suggestion that further details be left to the Dean and the UCC.

There is an understanding by the Senate that chairs should treat requests to cash in courses the way they treat requests for sabbaticals: sometimes one will have to put off the leave one has earned, but chairs minimize the deferral of earned leaves.

#### Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (CFRR)

The Senate passed a motion (with one abstention) declaring that it prefers the latest statement presented by the CFRR to the Senate outlining the rights and responsibilities of the CFRR and the Administration with respect to interpreting and enforcing the Faculty Handbook. The CFRR will now await the Administration's response to this statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.