

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE

Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Tuesday, January 13, 2009

The Faculty Senate met from 3-5 pm in the Luria rooms.

Present: Bishop, Flesch, Fraden, Garnick, Gittell, Herzfeld, Hill, Jacobson, Mann, Morrison, Sreenivasan, Troen, von Mering, Watson

Absent: Mairson, Moody

Guests: Jehuda Reinharz, President of the University, Marty Krauss, Provost, Adam Jaffe, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Lisa Lynch, Dean of Heller, Bruce Magid, Dean of IBS, Susan Dibble, chair of the Creative Arts Council, Stephen Dowden, chair of the Humanities Council, Irv Epstein, chair of the Natural Sciences council, Sarah Lamb, chair of the Social Sciences Council, Steve Burg, Chair of the Faculty committee on Admissions, representing the Admissions office, Fran Drolette, Jean Eddy, and Frank Urso.

Emergency Meeting

The Senate met in an emergency session attended by a large number of invited guests. The meeting was largely informational.

Opt-Out Listserv

Flesch called the meeting to order, and said that the Senate Council had decided to set up an opt-out email list for all faculty to discuss the issues and make proposals in advance of an emergency faculty meeting to be held nine days later.

Report from President Reinharz

President Reinharz described the pressures that the recent financial crisis put on the university, and reiterated eleven principles that he saw as essential to Brandeis under any restructuring. Those principles, available on his website, include commitments to the tenure system, to remaining a university, and to financial stability.

Report from Peter French

Peter French then gave a presentation about the current financial situation, the most salient part of which was the fact that Brandeis only has about eighteen months of reserves left, after which the budget deficit will be much deeper.

Discussion of initiatives to counter budget deficits

Two major initiatives to counter the budget deficit were discussed among the senators and the

visitors: to require Brandeis undergraduates to attend Brandeis during a specially designed summer semester, and to restructure the curriculum to do more with less. The new restructuring of the curriculum, very broadly laid out by Dean Adam Jaffe and the Administration, would be designed for a faculty whose size would decrease by 10% even as requiring a summer semester would allow Brandeis to absorb another 125 matriculants a year with the current physical plant.

#### Follow-up discussion

After a friendly and frank discussion, the Administrators left the room, and the Senate informally reconstituted itself as a committee of the whole, one which included the chairs of the school councils as well. By a voice vote it was the sense of the committee that further exploration of the various suggestions made by the Administration be undertaken, and that these suggestions be communicated to the faculty.

#### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.