

**BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE**

Meeting of the Faculty Senate, Thursday, February 12, 2009

The faculty Senate met from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Board of Trustees Room, Irving.

Present: Flesch, Hill, Mann, Sreenivasan, Bishop, Fraden, Garnick, Jacobson, Mairson, Morrison, Rakowski, Troen, von Mering, Gittell on conference phone

Absent: Herzfeld, Moody, Watson

Guests: Joseph T. Baerlein, Esq., President of Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications, Inc.; Peter Conrad and Carol Osler for Faculty Budget Committee; Adam Jaffe, Dean of Arts and Sciences

Introduction of Lisa Mills

Lisa Mills was introduced as the new administrator for the Faculty Senate. She replaces Missy Goldberg, who had to resign when she broke her arm.

Correction

Flesch announced that Rick Parmentier had corrected the terminology by which a new program was referred to in the previous minutes. The Senate corrects the record to say that it is interested (as previously noted) in the evaluation of the Master's program in Global Studies (scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009). The minutes of the previous meeting have been changed to reflect the correct terminology.

PR Firm

Joe Baerlein met with the Senate to discuss how his PR firm is assisting Brandeis in presenting the most accurate picture of the university and the current financial situation. He is available to assist faculty in drafting communication with the press, alumni, and students.

Report from Faculty Budget Committee

Peter Conrad and Carol Osler reported that the faculty can feel satisfied that all debt has been reported. No hidden assets or debts will be reported and a meeting to share the budget and financial options will come soon. Even with the success of CARS, the college will still be 11M short on operating expenses (due to the endowment reduction) with a structural deficit of 12-14M by 2014.

Interim Report from Eric Hill

Eric Hill informed the Senate that the CRCR interview with Peter French yielded a very similar picture of the finances that Peter Conrad and the faculty finance committee received. Eric reported that Michael Rush had established the conditions under which he would or would not remain at the Rose. Eric also informed them that the CRCR had heard (particularly from Ellen

Smith) some ideas about possibilities for the Rose going forward should the administration proceed with their plan to close the Rose and sell the paintings. The committee had also heard from brilliant and passionate students who shared how they felt about how this whole process was handled by the administration and what it felt like for them to be left out. Eric told them that the CRCR ascertained how Fine Arts, CP and other areas carried out pedagogy connected with the museum but stopped short of recommending an extended committee – something not everyone on the Senate favors. It was recommended that the Senate meet with the Kennedy Center president, Brandeis alum Michael Kaiser, who is an expert in salvaging art institutions.

Dean Jaffe Update from CARS Committee

Dean Jaffe met with the Senate to provide updates and answer questions.

CARS is concerned about haste in decision making and has addressed speed vs. deliberation. Nevertheless, in the next few weeks a decision will be made regarding the 3rd semester and any new majors that may be proposed e.g. business.

The University hopes to increase enrollment by 400 students over the next 4 years but crowding is a concern.

The 3rd semester will be shorter than the fall and spring semesters.

Graduate students are being accepted for the next academic year, as usual.

The CARS recommendations will be made near the end of spring break, will go to councils and then on to the faculty.

There was a discussion of a closed ballot to relieve the pressure that junior faculty may be feeling.

Faculty, Student, Trustee Advisory Committee

The Senate began considering the creation of an advisory committee, to be jointly appointed with the Provost and to comprise faculty, students, and trustees, to continue discussions on the fate of the Rose and its collection. Eric Hill will provide a written report from his committee when classes resume. The Senate agreed that such a committee is needed, and that further discussion could take place at the next Senate meeting.

Next Faculty Senate Meeting

It was decided that an additional Senate meeting is needed. This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2009 in the Board of Trustees Room in Irving.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:00 pm.