

**BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

The first 2009-10 meeting of the Faculty Senate, August 26-27, 2009.

~~~~~

The Faculty Senate initially met August 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm- 2:00pm in the Lurias in the Hassenfeld Conference Center.

Present: Bishop, Dibble, Garnick, Gittell, Herzfeld, Hickey, Hill, Mann, Mapps, Meyer, Moody, Nelson, Parmentier, Troen, von Mering

Absent: Burt, Flesch, Morrison

**New Senate Chair**

The Senate discussed what would be expected of the newly elected Senate Chair, including the most pressing issues the Chair would face in the coming Academic Year.

**Vote of Senate Chair**

The Faculty Senate voted to appoint Sabine von Mering as the Chair of the Senate for 2009-2010 Academic Year.

**Vote of Senate Council**

The vote to elect the Senate Council was postponed, due to lack of time. It was decided that the Senate meeting would continue August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 2:00pm.

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

~~~~~

The Faculty Senate meeting resumed August 27 from 2:00-3:30pm in the Board of Trustees Room in Irving.

Present: Bishop, Dibble, Garnick, Gittell, Herzfeld, Hickey, Hill, Mann, Meyer, Moody, Morrison, Nelson, Parmentier, Troen, von Mering

Absent: Burt, Flesch, Mapps

### **Continued Order of Business: Nominations for Senate Council**

Before opening nominations, the senate discussed last year's Senate activities. The discussion included the relationships between the Chair, Council and overall Senate, as well as the relationships that exist between these bodies and the faculty at large.

### **Discussion of Senate Participation in Committees and Status Reports**

An additional discussion ensued regarding University Committees, and Senate representation on these Committees, such as CFRR and Public Relations. It was agreed that the Senate would create an inventory of committees with Faculty Senate representation, detailing which members serve on these committees, with the objective being that the Senate will hear interim or status reports from those committees, as well as from other committees in which there is no current Senate representation. There was a particular interest expressed in a status report from the Budget Committee.

Bob Meyer brought up the procedure used by the Provost and the Senate Council over the summer to replace members of committees who were going to be on sabbatical in the coming academic year. It was pointed out that, at least in Meyer's case concerning his service on the CFRR, this procedure appeared to have been in error. The new Senate chair agreed to look into the matter with the Provost.

### **Nominations and Elections for Senate Council**

Timothy Hickey, Eric Hill and Catherine Mann were elected to the Senate Council.

### **Meetings with President Reinharz**

The letter from President Reinharz was discussed. This letter suggested that regular meetings with the Senate and the President be reinstated. The Senate agreed to schedule a meeting to be held after the September 17, 2009 meeting. The agenda of this meeting will be split between the President and the Senate.

### **Schedule of Regular Senate Meetings**

It was agreed that Senate Meetings should be held two weeks prior to scheduled Faculty Meetings, allowing Senate members to participate in determining the agendas for the Faculty Meetings. Senate meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- September 17th, 2009, 3:00pm-5:00pm
- October 22nd, 2009, 3:00pm-5:00pm
- November 19th, 2009, 3:00pm-5:00pm

- February 25th, 2010, 3:00pm-5:00pm

- March 25th, 2010, 3:00pm-5:00pm

\*The Senate will schedule additional meetings as the need arises.

### **Communication with the Faculty**

The Faculty Handbook mandates that the Faculty Senate "determines, via electronic poll or other means, the issues of greatest concern to the faculty"(p.27)

The Senate is eager to increase and improve communication with all faculty members, and be proactive in addressing faculty concerns. Therefore, the Senate discussed creating a brief survey, to be distributed to all faculty. The survey will request input and comments to help the Senate prioritize its work for the coming year. There was debate about whether to send out such a survey immediately. Some Senators voiced concern that the survey should be well-thought out to be effective. It was agreed that a survey will be created over the next couple of weeks and shared with the faculty ASAP so the Senate can prioritize its agenda for the year based on the widest possible faculty input.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.