

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Meeting of the Faculty Senate September 17, 2009.

The Faculty Senate met from 3:00-5:00pm in the Heller Building room G53.

Present: Bishop, Dibble, Garnick, Herzfeld, Hickey, Hill, Mann, Mapps, Meyer, Moody, Morrison, Nelson, Parmentier, von Mering (Chair)

Absent: Burt, Flesch, Gittell, Troen

Introduction of New Senate Administrator

The new Senate Administrator, Alicia Hyland, was introduced to the present members of the Faculty Senate.

Brief Update from Chair/Council on Recent Meetings

The Senate Council gave a report on their meeting with President Reinharz that occurred on September 15th. Sabine von Mering updated the Senate on recent meetings she has held with former chairs of the Faculty Senate. The Senate Council also provided a report on their recent meeting with Provost Marty Krauss.

A confidential conversation was held regarding the scheduling of an additional Senate meeting.

Election of Faculty Handbook Committee

Senate members made nominations from the faculty at large to the Faculty Handbook Committee. The Senate Council was charged with reviewing these nominations and appointing the members of this committee. This appointment will include naming one member of the current Senate to serve on this committee.

CFRR Membership:

The Senate reviewed a draft of a letter written by Elizabeth Ferry and Sabine von Mering regarding appointment to the CFRR Committee.

The Senate discussed the possibility of holding elections for Senate Chair and Senate Council in May (at the end of the academic year), instead of in August (at the beginning of the next academic year), to ease the transition between the outgoing and incoming Chair of the Senate and the Senate Council. It was agreed that if the elections are to be held on this timeline, the incoming Chair and Council would still assume leadership at the start of the next academic year. While the new Chair and Council would not be active over the summer, this process would allow for transfer of information between the outgoing and incoming governing bodies. This would also allow the new Chair to plan course relief, etc.

This was followed by a discussion of the new Justice Brandeis Semester and the potential need for Senate governance in the summer months. The concern was expressed that if a requirement to serve on the Senate included service during the summer, membership would be severely limited. The idea of interim appointments to the Senate and Senate Council was considered as a way to provide continuity of faculty governance over the summer months, without restricting membership on the Senate to faculty members who would be available year round. The issue will have to be taken up by the newly-constituted Faculty Handbook Committee.

Faculty Survey

Ideas for construction of the faculty survey were discussed. It was decided that the Senate would revisit the writing and distribution of a faculty survey after holding an open Senate meeting with the faculty, thus enabling the Senate members to devise a more constructive document.

Discussion of Student Journalists/Use of Cameras at Faculty Meetings

In the Senate Council's meeting with Marty Krauss, the issue of student journalists at faculty meetings was broached. The Faculty Handbook mandates that the student press is allowed to be present at faculty meetings, but the issue discussed was whether or not the members of the press should be allowed to record or take photos during these meetings. It was decided that the Senate would draft a letter to the student press organizations asking that they refrain from taking photos at inappropriate moments, such as faculty voting, and restrict photos to more formal occasions, such as platform presentations.

Review of Revised Faculty FMLA Policy

The Senate discussed the newly revised Faculty FMLA policy. It was agreed that the members of the Senate would review the new policy, comparing it to the existing policy, and then present any concerns during the next Senate meeting.

Discussion of Senate Meeting with President Reinharz

The Senate will meet with President Reinharz during the next scheduled Faculty Senate meeting on October 22nd. Agenda ideas were suggested by Senate members for this meeting.

Discussion of Open Senate Meeting

The Senate reiterated its intention to hold an Open Senate Hearing. A date would be set shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.