BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE

Meeting of the 2010-11 Faculty Senate
The meeting was held on May 5th, 2011 from 3:00-5:00pm in Heller Room G53

Present: Bishop, Dibble, Garnick, Hall, Herzfeld, Hickey, Lichtman, Meyer, Morrison, Nandakumar, Nelson, Ratner, Rosenberg, von Mering
Absent: Burt, Flesch, Molinsky, Parmentier,

Approval of Minutes
The Faculty Senate approved the minutes of the March 24, 2011 Faculty Senate Meeting.

Senate Role in the Provost Search
Sacha Nelson gave a report to the Senate on the Provost search and discussed the next steps in the process and the role the Faculty Senate will play in the final steps of identifying the next Provost. He informed the members of the Senate that the quality of candidates had been overwhelming, and that there was great consensus among the members of the search committee for both the semifinalists and the finalists. The finalists will be brought to campus for interviews, including meeting with the Senate Council.

Nelson also provided a brief description of the process undertaken by the search committee. The process began with the drafting of the search document/job description for the Provost search, which was based on the presidential search document. Ads were then placed and the search firm began to reach out to potential candidates. At the same time, the Faculty Senate began to solicit nominations from the faculty. There was no hard deadline for the committee to work with, so they continued to look at applications until they had a final list of candidates. Every member of the committee reviewed each application, which included letters, CV’s as well as occasional additional material. Each member then ranked the candidates to develop a list for discussion. From this ranking and discussion, the committee identified a group to interview, about thirteen interviews out of a pool of about seventy applicants. Most of these interviews occurred over one weekend. The committee then met to produce a list of seven semifinalists. This was the list to be referenced. The President then spoke to each candidate by phone. President Lawrence asked that the group be narrowed down to three or four candidates. The committee members were unanimous about 3 candidates.

In the next phase of this process, the Senate Council will interview the finalists. There will be a special Senate Meeting on May 12th where the Senate Council will report their impressions of the final three candidates, with special considerations made for the confidentiality of the candidates, resulting in a sense of the Senate statement that will be delivered to President Lawrence.

The Senate will continue to develop a list of questions/issues to be discussed with
candidates by the members of the Senate Council. Some of the issues to be addressed in these meetings raised were:

- The candidate’s position on the role of faculty in governance.
- Specific attributes of leadership style
- Process of decision making/information gathering related to decisions
- Ability to step into newly defined leadership role
- Ways of addressing decisions made

**Senate Role in the Dean Search**
The Senate will need to meet in June to weigh in on the Dean Appointment.

**Faculty Meeting/Reception for Provost Krauss and Dean Jaffe**
The members of the Senate discussed ideas and issues for the final faculty meeting.

**Preparation for Symposium on Grade Inflation**
There was a discussion of creating a symposium for early October around the topic of grade inflation. There was also encouragement for obtaining factual data on this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.