BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE MEETING #8 – 2017-2018

MEETING MINUTES

AGENDA

Thursday, May 10, 2018
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
Shapiro Campus Center, Room 314 (updated 5.8.18)

CELEBRATORY LUNCH

12:00 P.M. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

❖ Congratulations to Newly Elected Senators
❖ Announcements of Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees
❖ Nomination & Election of Senate Chair & Council

OPEN CONVERSATION

❖ Anticipating the 2018-19 Agenda
❖ Plan for “On-Boarding” of Newly Elected Faculty

1:30 P.M. Adjourn to the Faculty Meeting

• Faculty Handbook Language RE: Senate Election of Chair & Council (VI.B.3.a.iv. p. 26):

“The newly-elected and continuing Senators shall meet before the final faculty meeting of the academic year, convened by the chair, or in the chair’s absence by the oldest member, who presides over the new Senate’s election of its chair. The emerita/emeritus Senator is not eligible to serve as chair. The chair-elect presides over the election of the new Senate Council. Results of the elections are announced at the last meeting of the faculty in the spring term. Terms of office begin on the first day of instruction in the fall term.

(And VI.B.3.c. p 27):
The Council of the Faculty Senate consists of the chair of the Faculty Senate, who also chairs the Council, and three other members of the Senate. Members of the Council are elected for one-year terms. No more than two Senators from a single School may serve on the Senate Council. For this purpose, faculty from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management and the Brandeis International Business School are considered members of the School of Social Science. The emerita/emeritus Senator is not eligible to serve on the Senate Council.”

Upcoming Faculty Meeting
Thurs, May 10th, 2PM-3:30PM: Faculty Meeting #8 (Gerstenzang 123)
PRESENT: Susan P. Curnan, Chair, Daniel Bergstresser, Bernadette Brooten, Wendy Cadge, Joel Christensen, Joseph Cunningham, Jane Ebert, Susan Holcombe, Dmitry Kleinbock, Sarah Mead, Paul Miller, Kate Moran, Carol Osler, Raj Sampath, Raphael Schoenle, Larry Simon

ABSENT: Joseph Assan, Jennifer Cleary, Elizabeth Ferry, Anita Hannig, Adrianne Krstansky, Liuba Shrira, Faith Smith, John Wardle

12:00 P.M. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

❖ Congratulations to Newly Elected Senators
The Chair welcomed newly elected Senators Bernadette Brooten (At-Large), Wendy Cadge (Social Science), Dmitry Kleinbock (Science), Raphael Schoenle (Social Science) and Liuba Shrira (Science) and re-elected Senators Susan Holcombe (emerita) and Adrianne Krstansky (Creative Arts).
The Chair was also re-elected to the At-Large seat.
And, the Chair thanked outgoing Senator Joe Cunningham for the completion of his final year of his two-term run, as well as outgoing Senators Elizabeth Ferry, Anita Hannig, Paul Miller and John Wardle.

❖ Announcements of Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees
The Chair announced the two newly elected Faculty Representatives, Professor Jytte Klausen and Professor Harleen Singh, and thanked outgoing Representatives Liz Hedstrom and Ann Olga Kolski-Ostrow.

All senators present introduced themselves, describing any current leadership roles on committees or programs and each described a topic or two that they’d like to see the Senate address.
Senators expressed gratitude for the leadership and accomplishments of Senate Chair Susan Curnan.
Topics of interest included:
• Engaging more faculty in Faculty Meetings and governance matters;
  Encouraging University staff members responsible for sponsored research and fundraisers to work with faculty in Humanities and Creative Arts to increase opportunities and resources in their fields;
• Building capacity to regularly review the University mission statement in governance structures;
• Increasing opportunities for dialogue between the Faculty Senate and the broader faculty;
• Encouraging transparency regarding faculty salaries;
• Pursuing diversity as a conduit in all aspects of University governance and functions, in addition to Senior Administrative directives;
• Encouraging more inter-department communications;
• Continued interest in Faculty Governance and increasing shared governance;
• Playing a role in helping the Administration, students and faculty move forward as the Athletics Department discrimination investigation continues;
• Reviewing the composition of multi-year contract faculty, both full and part-time;
• Leading by example regarding diversity and inclusion;
• Raise up the experience of International Students in the discrimination discussion as the conversation has focused on American discrimination; and
• Executing recommendations from the Dignity at Work Committee re: faculty bullying.

The Chair described the opportunity presented by serving on the Faculty Senate, an open door for any matters affecting faculty (with some parameters set by the Handbook).

The Chair listed a summary of roles and responsibilities of the Chair and Senate Council:
1. Preside at Senate Meetings (required to meet at least 6 times each academic year) and Faculty Meetings
2. Bi-monthly advisory meetings with President & Provost
3. Manage elections and appointments, including Senate, Representatives to the Board of Trustees and Faculty Handbook Standing Committees
4. Serve on search committees for University senior leadership
5. Conduct annual poll of faculty – areas of interest
6. Chair serves ex officio on the Board of Trustees (attending a retreat and three meetings each academic year)
7. Performance Reviews of the President and Provost and Review of Executive Compensation
8. Serving on the University Advisory Committee
9. Reaccreditation Steering Committee
10. Direct traffic on faculty matters
11. Shared Governance Task Force Recommendation Implementation
12. Special Subcommittees – letters/Resolutions and Consultations as needed and informal mediation of disputes

The Chair said that the Senate has agreed that “every Senator has a job” and described some of the roles Senators are serving, including: Faculty Representatives to the Board of Trustees; Alumni Board Faculty Representative; Committees on Sustainability, Dignity at Work, Governance Task Force, Free Expression Task Force, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Retirement Fund Review, Non-discrimination policies, Readings at the Faculty Meetings, Advisor to Athletics and to the Arts.

❖ Nomination & Election of Senate Chair & Council

The Senate discussed nominations for the Senate Chair and reviewed the role, responsibilities and compensation for extraordinary service newly established this year. One senator moved to nomination and discussion. The motion was seconded.

There was one candidate nominated by several senators.

The Senate engaged in a lively discussion about the timing and process of the Senate Chair and Council elections and agreed to revisit the schedule of said election and consider Handbook revision to that end. The candidate, current Senate Chair Curnan, was asked to leave the room while the rest of the Senate present engaged in discussion and the vote.

The Chair was re-elected by majority vote (2 abstentions), for a fourth one-year term.

The Senate Chair returned to the meeting room. In accordance with the Handbook, the Senate then discussed nominations for the Senate Council, including nomination in support of the current Council. Other nominations were put forward. The Senate conducted a secret paper ballot for nominated candidates. Senators Moran and Simon will continue to serve on the Faculty Senate Council and Senator Joel Christensen was newly elected. Senator Sarah Mead will retire from the Council, but remain central to Senate dialogues and decisions.

Adjourn to the Faculty Meeting

The Senate adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lanni Isenberg, May 16, 2018