Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

12:30 – Gather/Approve Minutes
- Motion to approve minutes
  - Minutes approved

12:35 – Senate Chair's comments; election update; DEIS Update; Survey of Faculty; Retirement Equity, Campus Safety
- Election update: 6 to 7 nominees for each seat, but only one person is running for each seat
- New members election
- Retirement equity survey data incoming, volunteers needed to analyze the data
- Comments needed on

12:40 – Discussion of Faculty Governance: Senate Reform Working Group; Senate By-laws
- Senate working group
  - Needs updating, misunderstanding of what the senate does
  - Come up with own bylaws and make them internal to the senate
    - Asks for volunteers to help create said by-laws
  - Needs official measures for chair and counsel
    - Comment on chair should be elected in the fall rather than the spring
    - Consider shifting vote
    - Problem occurs when chair is outgoing after the semester
  - Volunteers to go through faculty priority survey and comment
  - Task request: Summary of concerns in the working group
    - Looking at governance structure what are the concerns
      - Not represented
      - Black Box
    - Volunteers raise hand for By-laws committee
      - Joel Cutcher
  - Three things in task force
    - Faculty meeting
    - By-laws
    - Composition
      - How many senators and committee members
  - Volunteer on tasks occur
    - Review DEIS J
    - Review Dignity at Work
    - Review Retirement Equity Survey
12:55 – Dick Reynolds, VP of Operations

- Introduction of Task Force 4 and discussion on how to think about creative additions to Brandeis’ that will strengthen culture. Task Force 4 works closely with the other three task forces.
- Discussion on buildings in rough condition, often for multiple reasons. They are looking at what needs physical improvements and how to do these improvements while maintaining flexibility for the future.
- Task Force 1’s analysis of Residential Life and Dining
  - Res. Life - Missing multiple open spaces in dorms
  - Dining - Lack of sense of community
- Plans to build new buildings with the idea to make places to become more linked to other things in the building. Places to “do something” rather than “get something done”
- Discussion of residential life improvement sequences and the vision for transformed residential spaces.
- Initiatives for Athletics, Library, and in other key areas such as Science, Social Sciences, Arts, and IBS.
- Task 3 Areas of Investigation
  - Founding Values
  - Civic engagement
  - Campus Accessibility
- Questions asked about the economic impact of creating new buildings
  - Look at evolving the standard of new buildings
- Questions asked about teaching spaces
- Seems to be missing the answer the questions of what makes the best campus
  - Seems to concern that we are grouping departments
- A lot of questions about how classrooms are set
- Lack of Rehearsal Space in music
- Need for creative teaching spaces
- Goes over miscellaneous other renovations
- Reviews action steps
- Task request: Write written comments if have suggestions or questions
  - Focus on sustainability and climate change

1:45 – Discussion: Dignity at Work

- Obstacles:
  - Need a clear policy language
  - Need to start holding people accountable
  - Figure out the process for holding people accountable
  - People want things tight and the circle small
  - Process is wrong because we cannot use investigator
  - Needs to decide whether or not a policy is created when this goes in
    - Action Step: Need task force to meet with Sonia more
    - Task force wants this to presented in front of faculty in November and December
Action Step: Make meetings times about this subject
Try to get legislation as soon as possible to get in front of the faculty

1:30 – Sonia Jurado, OEO and Title IX Coordinator
- Introduction
- Standards of conduct of faculty and staff
- Explanation of what they do
- Talking about importance of who is being trained and why they are trained
- Explanation of who OEO is and what they do
- Difference between bullying and harassment
- Best thing to do is refer to this office they will go from there
- Questions asked about if information is available about issues that are dealt with by OEO
- Training is not mandatory yet, but it is in the works
- Senate training brought up, if it could be a thing
- What the training looks like
- Definition of what the office deals with
- Where people can report
- Steps what people can take
- What people’s rights are and accessibility in the classroom
- 90 minute to 2 hour meeting
- Vote about training for the Senate (occurred by nodding)
  - Unanimous yes
- Responsible reporters

Next Meeting:
- By laws and Equity report out
- Strategy and planning report

Attendance:

Sabine Von Mering, Jane Ebert, Grace Zimmerman, Danielle Igra, Sue Lanser, Sarah Mead, Carol Osler, Pu Wang, Rajesh Sampath, Joel Christensen, Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld, William Flesch, Dmitry Kleinbock, Laurence Simon

Absent:

Jennifer Cleary, A.K. Nadakumar, Liuba Shrira, Adrianne Krstansky