Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

12:30 – Gather/Approve Minutes
   • Motion to approve minutes
     o 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
     o Needs updating, misunderstanding of what the senate does
     o Come up with own bylaws and make them internal to the senate
       ▪ Asks for volunteers to help create said by-laws
     o 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
     o Volunteers to go through faculty priority survey and comment
     o 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
     o Three things in task force
       ▪ Faculty meeting
       ▪ By-laws
       ▪ Composition
         • How many senators and committee members
     o 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
  o Res. Life - Missing multiple open spaces in dorms
  o 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
  o Founding Values
  o Civic engagement
  o Campus Accessibility
Questions asked about the economic impact of creating new buildings
  o 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
  o 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
  o Focus on sustainability and climate change

1:45 – Discussion: Dignity at Work
• Obstacles:
  o Need a clear policy language
  o Need to start holding people accountable
  o Figure out the process for holding people accountable
  o People want things tight and the circle small
  o Process is wrong because we cannot use investigator
  o 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