Brandeis Faculty Senate
Friday, November 13th, 2020
Via Zoom

Brandeis Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Gather, Chair’s Updates, Approval of Minutes, Ongoing Business: Dignity at Work; Senate Anti-Racist Plan

Motion to Approve the Minutes
Approved

Some quick updates, first thing we had three motions from the task force on faculty governance. The task force is withdrawing the third motion. Second, on the dignity at work proposal. I met with Mark and Robin and they won’t accept it as is so I’ve been meeting with DaW committee members to continue to discuss. There are ways to enact good change without a handbook vote.

Discussion of Dignity at Work, University Climate around that, and new Provost search

Consultants for re-imagining Public Safety

Introduction of the Consultants, their backgrounds, and their project goals. Discussion and questions regarding re-imagining Public Safety at Brandeis.

Discussion on Amendment to DEISJ Handbook Committee (Sue Lanser)

I submitted some changes to the DEISJ Handbook Committee that came out of the committee meeting. We realized that we were not a diverse committee and every faculty member on this committee was female and every administrator aside from one was male. We need a larger committee for inclusion and enabling the committee to do its work. We want to propose some modesty changes to the make-up of the committee and we’d like to stagger the terms of committee as well.

The particular concern that we all had was the lack of diversity considering the mission of the committee.

Question: I have no problem taking these changes to the Faculty Meeting but I will probably wait until the Spring. Any one opposed to taking this to the full faculty?
Response: No
Accountability Plan for our Anti-Racism Plan. I’m asking Senators to pick a
task to keep us accountable for our major goals, particularly goal #5 around
educating ourselves and training. Any volunteers for this specifically?
   Joel Cutcher Gershenfeld and Sue Lanser volunteered

   Suggestion: We should meet with the incoming administrator around
   training, Aretina Hamilton

Discussion about Robert’s Rules and Issues Therein.

   ACTION ITEM: Look into moving away from Robert’s Rules and what that
   might entail.

By-Law Discussion, 1 (please check pages 1-3)

   I wrote these and worked with other stakeholders to improve. I’ve highlighted
   the section that I believe needs more work. Currently we have an informal
   social contract as to what our responsibilities are and while I don’t want to
   overly formalize things I think we do need our general responsibilities to be in
   our by-laws. The first two points, one - attend all faculty and senate meetings,
   two - communicate with and on the concerns of their constituents.

   Discussion of first two points and at-large Senators.

   Suggestion: Requirement to attend all meetings might not be feasible.

   Suggestion: Point Number 3 might not be applicable and seems a
   little paternalistic.
   Response: There is more to being a senator than showing up
   to meetings and communicating to their constituents. There
   should be language around work outside of meetings.

   Moving on to Replacing Senators, we currently do not have a way to replace a
   senator. Last year I held special elections but do we need to have the power to
   ask someone to stand down.

   Suggestion: Putting this in is probably a good thing but there ought to
   also be a conflict resolution or mediation clause as well.

Attendance: Joel Christensen, Grace Zimmerman, A.K. Nandakumar, Joel Cutcher
Gershenfeld, Susan Dibble, Ilana Szobel, Monika Mitra, Sue Lanser, Arthur
Holmberg, Dmitry Kelinbock, William Flesch, Carol Osler, Sabine von Mering,
Gordon Fellmann, Davide Pettenuzzo

Guests: Brenda Bond-Fortier, Christi Hurt, Nina Kammerer, D.A. Graham

Absent: Rajesh Sampath, Pu Wang, Liuba Shrira, Elanah Uretsky