

## Voter's Guide, December 2018

The recommendations of the Faculty Task Force on Governance seek to bring faculty to the table as full partners in the mission and operation of the university. We seek to create new institutional structures that use faculty time rationally and efficiently and to revise current institutional structures so that representative faculty are in position to help shape decisions that will affect their research and teaching.

The Task Force will bring the **9 motions** below to the full faculty for consideration and voting in faculty meetings beginning in the faculty meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm. The motions are summarized here and in the accompanying documents (the *Handbook* with track changes, the table with changes organized sequentially and the table with changes organized thematically) that outline the changes we propose to the *Faculty Handbook*.

**Motion 1.** To include representative Brandeis faculty in deliberations about the strategic and financial decisions that the University makes. President Liebowitz has constituted a new University-wide Committee on Planning and Strategy (which includes faculty selected by each Arts & Sciences Division, Heller and IBS, as well as all academic deans including the VP of the Rabb School) and also its Budget and Priorities Subcommittee. **The Task Force recommends including this Committee and its Subcommittee in the *Handbook*** in order to ensure that all future administrations will involve representative faculty and the academic deans to “tackle strategic questions and match priorities and strategic decisions to budget priorities at the highest level.”

**Motion 2.** To ensure that standing faculty committees are representative of and selected by faculty in the A&S Divisions, Heller and IBS. **We recommend that members of all standing faculty committees will be determined by each Division or School and will have one member selected from each unit.** A&S Division Heads will oversee selection of faculty members to standing University and A&S Committees. The Chair of the Heller Education Steering Committee and the person at IBS responsible for academic programs will oversee the selection their respective faculty representatives to standing University Committees.

**Motion 3.** To streamline faculty governance so that faculty participation will be meaningful and that all committees have an important and clearly defined function, we recommend the creation of a **new Committee on Academic Standards and Policy** to coordinate curriculum, oversee the course approval process across schools, coordinate policy manuals across schools and coordinate and communicate degree and program requirements. The Committee will review all academic policies pertaining to students, address systemic advising issues, offer policy guidelines, coordinate student support across schools and develop new academic and co-curricular opportunities. The Committee will review proposals to start new academic program units or conclude current ones. The University Advisory Committee will be eliminated due to its large size and lack of clear mandate.

**Motion 4.** To clarify the committee structures and distinguish between committees which pertain only to A&S (i.e. Arts & Sciences Standing Committees) and those which are University committees. Specifically:

The University Committees are the Committee on Planning and Strategy, the University Committee on Academic Standards and Policy, the Committee on Teaching Learning and Assessment, the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, and the Advisory Committee of the Rabb School.

The Arts & Sciences Standing Committees are the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the Committee on Undergraduate Academic Standing, and the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid. In addition, the Tenured Promotions Committee continues to apply to Arts & Sciences faculty only.

**Motion 5.** To establish an **Advisory Committee of the Rabb School of Continuing Studies** to replace the Council of the Rabb School to provide support to the Vice President of the Rabb School of Continuing Studies by reviewing program proposals and helping to build bridges between the University and the Rabb School. Faculty from across the University will serve on this Committee allowing better communication and synergy.

**Motion 6.** To create a new University-wide **Committee on Teaching, Learning and Assessment** to coordinate what are now disparate efforts across the University, “mediate between the expectation of accreditation bodies and the norms of faculty” and report to the faculty information about “teaching and learning and trends in outcomes over time.”

**Motion 7.** To recommend that the **Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities will continue with its current functions** and to “oversee implementation of the Intellectual Property Policy as it pertains to faculty intellectual possible and serves as an appellate body, recommending to the Provost.” Committee members will also receive training at the beginning of their terms.

**Motion 8.** To revise the *Handbook* so that it is consistent with current practice and in some instances the Board Bylaws in terms of the role and responsibilities of the President, Provost, Deans and Divisions. This includes clarifying the President’s current role in terms of tenure, promotion and the budget as well as defining the Role of the A&S Divisions and the School Councils.

**Motion 9.** To ensure that the Faculty Senate can function more efficiently and have membership representational of and selected by the A&S Divisions and the Schools, we recommend that the at-large seats be dropped with the exception of the at-large seat for Emeriti faculty who will select a non-voting representative from their ranks and the Rabb School who will select its non-voting representative.

**None of these motions:**

- Suggest any changes to which faculty have the right to vote.

- Suggest any changes to processes of promotion and reappointment for faculty inside or outside of the tenure structure.
- Clarify the policies that pertain to all faculty versus faculty in various units of the university (We understand this effort is in progress).