

Yeshiva University Manhattan Campuses Faculty Council
Brookdale Center, Room 211
December 14, 2012
Minutes

Present: Paris Baldacci, Joan Beder, Gabriel Cwilich, Jeffrey Freedman, Anatoly Frenkel, Paula Geyh, Miriam Hirsch, Dennis Hoover, Jesse Itzkowitz, Will Lee, Nora Nachumi, Aliza Rotenstein, William Stenhouse, Charles Swencionis, Melanie Wadkins, Lynn Wishart, Marnin Young; Provost Mort Lowengrub; Vice Provost Larry Schiffman, guest

Moved by N. Nachumi and seconded to accept the Faculty Council minutes from the meeting of September 14, 2012. Motion carried.

Provost Lowengrub announced that the Board of Trustees, at its meeting on December 17, was expected to vote on adopting the Faculty Handbook. Once approved, the Handbook will be posted on the web.

Moved by N. Nachumi and seconded that for a period of 24 months beginning January 1, 2013 any faculty member who faces tenure review can choose between the tenure process under which he or she was hired or the tenure process as described in the Faculty Handbook. The rules in the Faculty Handbook will govern the tenure process for tenure-track faculty beginning January 1, 2015 regardless of date of hire. Motion carried.

Provost Lowengrub stated that a report is to be submitted by September 1, 2013 in response to the Middle States Commission's warning. Middle States found the University out of compliance with Standard 10 regarding faculty governance and Standard 14 regarding the assessment of student learning. Once the Board of Trustees approves the Faculty Handbook, it will be sent to the Middle States Commission in response to its questions about Standard 10. A task force on student assessment is being created, and a consultant is being hired to address the concerns with Standard 14.

L. Wishart reminded the Council that Section 2.1 of its Bylaws state that the Provost and one representative from the Deans' Council are to be regular participants in all general session meetings of the Faculty Council. The Deans' Councils have not yet welcomed participation from Faculty Council Representatives at their meetings.

The Faculty Council moved into executive session at 12:30.

Moved by W. Stenhouse and seconded that a Faculty Council sub-committee be created and empowered to approve a broader based and tighter tenure and promotion statement. Motion carried. Also moved by W. Stenhouse and seconded that the Faculty Council establish a sub-committee, chaired by W. Stenhouse, to

coordinate and foster governance procedures for the undergraduate faculty. Motion passed.

Moved by P. Baldacci and seconded that a letter listing any points not yet addressed regarding faculty salaries and retirement benefits be attached to the original Faculty Council letter of May 2012 and be sent to the Provost, the President and the Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Moved by N. Nachumi and seconded that the Benefits sub-committee, when meeting with M. Lowengrub regarding retirement incentives, indicate that the Faculty Council endorses transparency and suggest that the University establish clear timelines for moving toward more transparency in retirement incentives available to all faculty.

J. Itzkowitz reported that work has not begun on the 2013-14 budget. He will meet with Vice President Gower in the next few weeks.

The Executive Committee will create an agenda and set of questions for the Council's anticipated meeting with President Joel in April.

W. Lee will circulate the Middle States Self Study to the Faculty Council.

The Executive Committee will make proposals about how to create the Tenure Appeals Committee identified in the Faculty Handbook.

Representatives will each ask their faculties for ideas about joint programs. J. Beder will ask Vice Provost Schiffman about working with a committee. In his remarks, Vice Provost Schiffman had indicated he would like the Faculty Council to create a committee to look at opportunities for maximizing opportunities for joint academic programs. The Faculty Council will discuss these needs at the February meeting.

Faculty Council meetings scheduled for the remainder of the academic year follow: February 15 at 11 am at Cardozo on the Brookdale Center campus; April 19, time to be determined, on the Beren Campus. The Undergraduate Faculty Council Representatives sub-committee will meet at 10 am on February 15 prior to the general meeting of the Faculty Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by L. Wishart, Secretary