

YU Faculty Council  
March 24, 2017  
Minutes

Present: Linda Carroll (Katz), Alex Citanna (SCW), Sumanta Goswami (YC), Marina Holz (SCW), James Kahn (YC), Will Lee (YC), Daniel Rynhold (Revel), Leslie Salzman (CSL), Gary Stein (WSSW), Charles Swencionis (Ferkau), Melanie Wadkins (Ferkau).

Present for open session: Selma Botman, Marina Vasilyeva (Director, Sponsored Programs)

Faculty Council approved February Minutes.

James Kahn reported on the recent meeting of FC members with the new President to discuss the condition and mission of the University. There seemed to be agreement on YU's mission and the goal of preserving YU's academic excellence, but needed agreement on a strategy for achieving that goal. FC members raised the issue of clarifying the FC's role in University governance and concerns about the thinning of departments and salary freezes. Dr./Rabbi Berman expressed some concerns about the current deficit of approximately \$19 million, but understood the need for and supported salary increases.

The FC discussed concerns about the thinning of the faculty. The YC faculty is down one-third, (but so is the student population). Sy Syms has had an increase in student population. Overall, net tuition revenue at YC is up due to right-sizing scholarships. Overall, the undergrad male population is stable. There was some discussion of whether it made sense to have a less than fully dual educational program.

The FC will collect data and study the sizes of departments to address the thinning of faculty and see which departments are suffering most from the loss of faculty lines. The FC will create a sub-committee to conduct this evaluation. Will Lee offered to be on sub-committee. The sub-committee will request information from the Office of Institutional Research (Yuxiang Liu, director), including faculty and rank, numbers of available courses with credit allocation, and number of students.

Regarding salary increases, the University's data indicates that each percentage increase in salary and pension causes a \$1 million increase in deficit for each component of the undergraduate faculty.

FC is continuing to develop a potential letter challenging certain actions and policies of the Trump Administration.

Charles Swencionis, Linda Carroll and Will Lee agreed to survey other private universities to determine the source and scope of faculty governance at other institutions.

Westboro Baptist Church is planning to protest at YU this Monday. Students are planning an alternative fund-raising day.

Marina Vasilyeva the new Director of Sponsored programs gave a short presentation. Ms. Vasilyeva came to YU from the SUNY Foundation and will be the on-site person to assist with grants-- pre- and post-award. She invited all faculty to visit with her so that she understands YU faculty strengths and research goals. She recognized that the research agenda must be set by faculty and she will look to faculty to plan strategy for grant acquisition. She would like to maintain a balance between efforts on behalf of hard sciences and humanities and social sciences and to diversify the University's funding sources. Ms. Vasilyeva would like to establish a University Research Council as an advisory body.

The Provost reported that: 1) the University is interviewing for a Director of Graduate Enrollment; 2) Gabe Cwilich has agreed to be director of undergraduate fellowships; and 3) YU is now hiring several tenure-track faculty and converting one contract line to tenure-track. The goal is to increase faculty in those fields that YU can excel in and enhance YU's reputation in fields that will attract students.

Exec Session:

The Academic Affairs Committee held a meeting and discussed the Katz School and the University's aspirations for future programs—Associate and Master's degree programs. The FC discussed the mission and staffing of these programs and the FC's involvement in the design of these new academic programs.

Adjourn.