

Yeshiva University Manhattan Campuses Faculty Council
Beren Campus, Gottesman Board Room
October 31, 2014
Minutes

Council Members present: Neer Asherie, Josh Bacon, Joan Beder, David Carlson (by conference call), Archishman Chakraborty, Gabriel Cwilich, Paula Geyh, Abraham Givner, Marina Holz, Joanne Jacobson, Joseph Kerstein, Nora Nachumi, Emil Prodan, Abraham Ravid, Leslie Salzman, Charles Swencionis, Lynn Wishart, and Marnin Young.

Present from the YU administration were Provost Selma Botman, Associate Provost Scott Goldberg, Dean Karen Bacon, Dean Barry Eichler, Associate Dean Michael Strauss, and Associate Dean Ethel Orlian. Guests included Rob Hershan and Andrew Sagat from A&M; and, from the faculty, James Kahn, chair of the economics department, and Alessandro Cittana, also from the economics department.

At 10:00, Council members from YC, SCW, and SSSB met in executive session to discuss changes to the Tenure and Promotion document.

At 10:30 the meeting of the entire Council began. Due to the presentation of material nonpublic information by A&M, this meeting was open only to faculty members and administrators.

Mr. Hershan and Mr. Sagat from A&M offered a short history of the university's financial crisis. They briefly discussed re-financing of the debt and the sale of some properties. They also presented the university's profit and loss statement, and explained the deficit at Einstein.

The subsequent discussion focused primarily on the undergraduate units, since the assessment of the graduate and professional units is not yet complete. Mr. Hershan and Mr. Sagat reviewed their recommendations for the academic programs, including combining low-enrollment and redundant classes across the Wilf and Beren campuses, increasing class sizes when possible, and increasing teaching loads for tenure-stream faculty.

The Council asked Mr. Hershan and Mr. Sagat to return to talk with the Council again, once their review of the graduate and professional units is finished, so that we might discuss the recommendations for their restructuring.

Following the A&M presentation, Jim Kahn, chair of the economics department, presented a proposed template for de-centralized budgets, using his department as an example. Professor Kahn argued that a strategy of entrepreneurial growth would be preferable to cuts.

The minutes from the 19 September 2014 Faculty Council meeting were approved.

Two amendments to the Faculty Council by-laws were discussed.

The first amendment, which proposed that the Speaker conduct elections for new Officers each year, passed unanimously (see below for new wording of Section 3.B.iv of the *Faculty Handbook*).

The second proposed amendment, which sought to rotate the office of the vice speaker between the undergraduate and graduate/professional units of the University, was discussed. This amendment was tabled.

At 12:20, the Council moved into an executive session to discuss priorities and plans for the year.

The Council discussed Provost Botman's request for Council members to join her in working on the restructuring effort and on developing academic policies. The Council agreed that such a body should be created, but first guidelines to inform this work and future discussions with the provost should be developed. Nora Nachumi, Marina Holz, Gabriel Cwilich, Abraham Givner, Avri Ravid, and Joseph Kerstein volunteered to work on these guidelines.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Approved Amendment to the Faculty Handbook:

3.B.iv: Officers

a. Description of Officers

1. Speaker. The Speaker is the principal Executive Officer of the Council. He or she shall convene and conduct the meetings of the Council and perform such duties as the Council may request. The Speaker shall also conduct the elections for new Officers each year.

3. Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording Council meetings and, maintaining a file of all resolutions adopted by the Council, ~~and conducting the elections for new Officers each year.~~ The Secretary shall also obtain from the Vice Speaker the minute from Executive Committee meetings and shall keep a file of those minutes.