

Faculty Council
Meeting Minutes

02.07.2020

Attendance:

1. Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum (Cardozo Law)
2. Susan Mason (Wurzweiler)
3. Avri Ravid (Syms)
4. Charles Swencionis (Ferkauf)
5. Barry Eichler (Yeshiva College)
6. Anna-Lisa Cohen (Yeshiva College)
7. Jonathan Dauber (Revel Jewish Studies)
8. Vladimir Kovtun (Syms)
9. Gabriel Cwilich (Yeshiva College)
10. Marnin Young (Stern)
11. Moshe Krakowski (Azrieli Education)
12. Selma Botman (YU – Provost)
13. Tamar Avnet (Syms)

Business Items:

- Sending around minutes via email for approval at next meeting
- March 27th 11:30am – next meeting at WILF
- Must set 3rd meeting – May 8th 11:30am Stern (?)
- Zoom meetings for Executive Meetings
- We need to name the Executive Meeting representatives
- Attendance issues – send email to the Deans of the schools to ensure representation

Provost Report:

- Academic Affairs committee meeting with the Board of Trustees
 - Update on Katz school
 - School is growing and creating programs
 - Depending on prestigious adjuncts and undergrad faculty but are starting to open new lines and bring in new faculty
 - Created as a school of professional studies; President Ari Berman wanted to connect the model to the University, so it morphed into a school of science and health
 - Moving toward recruiting tenured faculty
 - Update on four working groups
 - Science and Tech
 - Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 - Values and Leadership
 - Great jobs and great careers
- Reports generated from working groups
 - Ideas for Adam Goertz to take to prospective donors
 - Direction of each of the working groups
- Next Tuesday – full board of trustees meeting

- There will be break-out sessions that include some of the ideas that emerged from the working groups regarding faculty (Computer Science – Judah Diamond will present)
- Acquainting the board with some of the work that is being done at the University
- Forms were distributed requesting to specify faculty research interests:
 - What projects are you working on?
 - What ideas emerge from the research that faculty thinks the University should support?
 - If the President knows what faculty are working on, he can say to donors what they should invest in/who they should partner with at the school
 - A discussion ensued where the faculty suggested that the forms provide clearer guidelines and examples of proposals that can be helpful.
- The provost reported that the university is encouraging programs where students can begin their graduate studies during their undergraduate years if they have the ability and time (“Pathway Programs”).
- Center for Teaching and Learning is closing.
 - Created one year ago –to help working with Canvas and to put courses online.
 - Two people affiliated until April.
 - Center will close at the end of the Spring.
 - There will be a position created in “Academic Technology” with in the IT programs.
 - It will no longer be an academic affairs position.
- Avri and the provost discussed the university authors booklet and event.
- The provost mentioned that recruiters needed to be fluent in the programs they are marketing – knowing the faculty, content of the curriculum but are not necessarily giving students all of the necessary information.
- We have new courses leading to a degree BS Engineering Physics – state needs to approve and register it first
- Avri asked about our ranking. The provost reported that the university was making efforts to increase the rankings with a consulting firm; Ken Randall (consultant) who has been working with Cardozo is now looking at Yeshiva to improve rankings
- Examples of how this can be done- properly counting alumni, for example. The rankings count all alumni who donate regardless of the amount donated.
- Reputational scores should go up.
- The provost reported that she is trying to reach out to other schools who reach out to us.
- Marketing materials – opening rates are going up.
- Most significant change is the separation from Einstein – we counted Einstein research in the past but we cannot count that anymore; we now need to increase grants and our spending. Affects the rankings.
- We underperform in reputation significantly.
- We are trying not to drop below 100 research institutions. We are #97.
- We are also looking at student retention and trying to figure out why we lose students between first and second years, between second and third years, etc.
- We accept provisional students – we need to rethink this – what about associates degree programs?

Other items- Avri presented the form 990 filing.

- Comparing fiscal 2018 to fiscal 2017 (previous year)
 - Lower donations
 - Less spent on salaries

- More income from tuition
- Lower Investment income
- Alan Kruger will reach out to us to explain the numbers

Approval of Surveys:

- Advertise the survey
- Post results on Faculty Council Website
- Proposal to add the following:
 - Do you approve or disapprove of the Provost's performance?
- Show Ken Randall the survey results?
- Proposal to invite Ken Randall to future meeting
- Tenure is important and teaching loads
- No teaching relief for chair positions

Teaching Loads, Promotions and Tenure: Policies and Guidelines Handbook- presented by Tamar Avnet

- Guidelines are a way to bypass the Faculty Handbook
- Faculty governance is important and needs to have teeth
- Between now and middle states visit, we need to document
- **Majority of FC members present approve of suggested changes to the Policies and Guidelines Handbook**
- Larger issue as to whether we have any governance role
- **Please circulate amongst each faculty the faculty handbook, the policies and guidelines handbook from 2017, and suggested revisions for further revision and faculty approval.**

Future Discussions:

- Academic Integrity Policy – circulated and we will discuss in future meetings