

YU Faculty Council March 16, 2018

JCS Notes

In attendance: Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum (Cardozo), Julie Suk (Cardozo), Maria Blekher (Katz), Daniel Rynhold (Revel), Anna-Lisa Cohen (YC), David Bleich (Cardozo), Tamar Avnet (Syms), Marina Holz (Stern), Kyron Huigens (Cardozo), Will Lee (YC), Barry Eichler (YC), Timothy Stevens (OAA), Charles Swencionis (Ferkauf), Lynn Levy (Wurzweiler), James Kahn (YC), Gabriel Cwilich (YC)

Two committees being formed:

- (1) Academic Affairs
- (2) Budget and Finance

The Academic Affairs Committee meets with Selma Botman once a month. A motion was made to make the Academic Affairs Committee coincide with the Executive Committee. It was noted that the Executive Committee meets with the Provost once a month already. Gabriel Cwilich and James Kahn have been attending the Academic Affairs Committee meetings of the Board of Trustees.

The motion was seconded and passed, but ensuing discussion revealed that there was some confusion as to what it would mean to make the Executive Committee coincide with the Academic Affairs Committee.

There was a discussion of the duties, functions, and composition of the Budget and Finance Committee. Several members expressed the view that at least some members with economics/finance backgrounds should serve on this committee. It was noted that, last year, the CFO met with representatives of the Faculty Council and allowed us access to documents with numbers. These documents were confidential, and were not to be taken from the meeting.

Many members expressed the view that the Faculty Council's new Budget and Finance Committee should meet with the CFO on a regular basis, and attend the meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees. Since Faculty Council members now attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees' Academic Affairs Committee, it would make sense and be consistent with existing practice for members of the new Faculty Council Budget and Finance Committee to attend the parallel committee of the Board.

It was noted that the Budget and Finance Committee, in addition to attending meetings with the CFO and the Board, should gather data and information relevant to the positions it might develop regarding budget and financial matters at the university. This could include compiling and analyzing all publicly available information (including university 990 forms) as well as updated salary information for faculty across the university, revealing school, rank, and gender. In addition to YU specific information, the Budget and Finance Committee could compile information available through the Chronicle of Higher Education, AAUP, and other organizations related to best practices at other comparable research universities.

The Council also discussed and approved the proposal to have each member of the Council serve on at least one of the two committees, Academic Affairs or Budget/Finance. A sign-up sheet was distributed to collect information on preferences, and James Kahn has compiled a list of assignments.

It was also discussed and moved that Tamar Avnet would work, along with Gabriel Cwilich, to develop and distribute a new faculty survey, to be distributed to Faculty Council members for distribution to colleagues at their schools. Some questions were raised as to which faculty colleagues should be included in the survey, and while the issue was not definitively resolved, several people expressed the view that each school should be left to decide whom to include. A target date of mid-April was set for the distribution of the survey, and Tamar will report back at the next meeting.

Based on the foregoing discussion, James Kahn agreed to draft something describing the functions and roles of the Academic Affairs and Budget/Finance Committees.

A brief discussion was had about how best to present the new Faculty Council Committees to the administration, with various strategies considered. A question was raised as to whether the formation of these Committees required amendments to the faculty handbook. In addition, Tim Stevenson answered many questions about the Middle States' Commission's evaluation of YU and the faculty governance issues raised in the last accreditation. A mid-term study is coming up in 2019, to ensure that any perceived deficiencies in faculty governance identified in the last accreditation have been overcome. The next self-study will be in 2023.

Julie Suk volunteered to stay in touch with Tim Stevenson to obtain and review the Middle States Commission's responses to the last university self-study and particularly any discussions of faculty governance. We will review these materials to ensure that the new Faculty Council committees and efforts are formulated to be consistent with and responsive to the Middle States requirements.

Finally, there was a discussion of the interdisciplinary conference that the Provost's office has proposed. Gabriel Cwilich, Lynn Levy, Julie Suk, and Tamar Avnet have volunteered to serve on a planning committee to work with the provost's office in organizing this event, with the understanding that the Planning Committee will determine the intellectual content of the conference, in conversation with faculty colleagues at their schools, and the Provost's office will oversee logistics. As several Cardozo faculty members have already drafted some proposal for interdisciplinary research initiatives at the University, growing out of Jewish Law themes, it was agreed that this proposal would be distributed to the Council members and more themes would be discussed and proposed.

The next meeting of the Faculty Council was set for April 13, at 12:00-2:00 p.m.

It was noted that we neglected to approve the minutes of the last Faculty Council meeting, and therefore this item should be added to the agenda of the next meeting.