**Minutes of Yeshiva University Faculty Council Meeting: 3/12/21**

Present:

Chairs Abraham Ravid, Gabriel Cwilich, Members: Jonathan Dauber, Charles Swencionis, Tamar Avnet, Alan Broder, Edward Zelinsky, Neer Asherie, Anna Lisa Cohen, Suzanne Stone, Chaya Rapp, Scott Goldberg, Rick Zweig, Susan Mason, Vladimir Kovtun, Jill Katz, Jess Olson, Neer Asherie,

Also Present: Provost Selma Botman, Mechel Hass, Matthew Schwartz

A. Provost Report:

1. Decision has been made to hold a virtual commencement.

2. Provost Botman is working with undergrad deans to offer joint YC/Stern courses. Courses will have an asynchronous component plus with separate meetings with men and women.

3. In Syms, there is a need to have as many upper-level classes for women as for men.

4. There is a need to figure out how to carry over positive parts of pandemic teaching experience to post-pandemic teaching.

5. Details of how many courses will have a hybrid component in the fall remains under discussion.

**Faculty comments:**

1. Anna Lisa Cohen raised question of whether there will be additional compensation for faculty teaching joint yc/stern classes. Provost Botman indicated that it won’t be more work, so there is no need for additional compensation.

2. Avri Ravid: Do vaccinated faculty still need Corona tests? Medical task force will decide.

Are there tax implications for those who have worked remotely? Provost Botman will inquire.

B. Mechel Hass

1. Mechal has met with YC chairs and other faculty. She emphasized the need for system to send information re faculty activities.

2. There is a plan for a special inbox to collect stories. It will be set up by early next week.

3. Ferkauf, Wurtzweiler: trying to gather stories for mental health month.

4. Anna-Lisa Cohen had an op ed in Washington Post which was placed with help from Mechal Hass and Bob Brody.

5. Best way to reach Mechal for an urgent story is by text.

6. A monthly meeting will be created with representatives from each school to discuss publicizing faculty activities.

7. Gabe Cwilich suggested asking faculty from different schools to record brief discussions of their planned research that Mechal could show to reporters. Mechal was supportive of this idea

8. Matthew Schwartz described two funnels for collecting info re faculty activities: (1) For something immediate, use new inbox. (2) For more long-term projects, bullet points re faculty research will be helpful. They will be used to create a passive database that can be consulted as news items come up.

9. Mechal asked faculty to inform her about special events or presentations that are being planned.

C. Tamar Avnet and Gabriel Cwilich: Summary of The Board Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

1. Beginning new MA in artificial intelligence.

2. A number of new online graduate programs are forming.

3. Beginning a new BS in YC.

4. Provost Botman emphasized the importance of grants.

5. Issue was raised that yeshiva lacked lab equipment needed to secure grants.

6. Provost Botman spoke about importance of reaching out to the orthodox community re new virtual degrees.

7. YU moved up to 76 in US World and News Report ranking, but board members said this was not sufficient.

8. There was significant focus on the importance of research.

**Faculty Council Executive Session**

1. Faculty Council members stressed the need for more financial support to make research possible, as well as incentives to make faculty more willing to engage in research. So far, this has not been forthcoming.

10. Faculty Council decided to establish a committee to provide a list of specific ways in which the university can support research.

Tamar Avnet, Charles Swencionis, Gabriel Cwilich and Susan Mason will serve on this committee. Avri Ravid may join ex-officio.

D. Letter on chair pay

Avri Ravid raised the subject and presented the letter which had been sent before for review.

Faculty council unanimously approved sending the letter on chair pay to the administration.

E. Tamar Avnet on faculty salary survey

1. 2021 faculty-council salary survey shows that little has changed since 2012 university-sponsored report. Salary and ranking gender gap are little changed. A discussion followed and Tamar and Charles will supply further information as to what can be done with the survey.

E. General Faculty Survey:

Faculty Council unanimously agreed to send faculty survey to the entire faculty in the second week of April.

Meeting adjourned at 120 pm