**May 3rd ,2024 meeting starts at 11:30am**

In attendance: Vladimir Kovtun, Avri Ravid, Anna-Lisa Cohen, Richard Zweig, Jonathan Dauber, Charles Swencionis, Maria Zaitseva, Susan Mason, James Kahn, Tamar Avnet, Selma Botman.

*(Tamar Avnet took early minutes)*

Avri and Gabe will both be on a Sabbatical for next fall 2024.

Avri has provided a statement to conclude what he has been doing in the council:

I would like to read this short address, as this is my last meeting as chair, at least for a bit, since I will be on Sabbatical at Yale next semester, and I think Gabe is on Sabbatical too.

I would like to thank the provost for her commitment to the council to the president for meeting with us and his promise to support the faculty in the coming budget process, and also, I would like to thank members of the council for the dedicated work you have done. It has been hard work, but also rewarding, in particular the interpersonal interactions with amazing people.

I joined YU it was because I believed the flagship Jewish University in this great country should shine. This goal, in my view, is even more important and urgent today as we watch other great universities going through an identity crisis. Academic excellence requires investment in faculty, as well as shared responsibility between faculty and the administration. The administration cannot do this alone, and the faculty cannot achieve this alone either. The purpose of the council has been, in my view, to move this shared governance forward and carve a path towards a better future. We have made some progress in crafting a handbook and weighing in on several important decisions during the Covid crisis and in other cases, but there is still much to be done. Hopefully you will continue the work ahead as this goal has become more salient and urgent. Thank you very much.

No minutes were provided from last meeting, it was short and a few attended..

**Provost Report (Selma):**

Thank you Avri.

Multiple levels of the tenure process, the final two levels include a discussion and vote of the academic committee of board of trustees and final decision of the board of trustees, in May after commencement.

We should be proud of the faculty hired at YU, who are research active, care about students, and about their colleagues. Cases were astonishing. One person has 55 publications. All research is impactful, all teaching evaluations are great. We should be proud of deans and faculty; recruiting, mentoring and prompting these people.

Given what is happening in other universities, we went back to the policies we have at YU, so we can deal with all other instances. We have good policies for undergraduate and Haim Nissel is now expanding policies to the graduate schools. The registrar and some faculty, deans and others, are working on common policies across schools with exceptions where needed. It is challenging if people take classes in different schools.

We did things in an additive way instead of collaborative way. We want to streamline practices before the Middle States visit.

We have just hired the Dean of Stern/YU Dr. Rebecca Cypess, from the school for the arts at Rutgers. She has worked with Jewish faculty from Rutgers. Excited about her coming at July 1st. Karen Bacon is becoming the VP of Academic affairs???. This allows her to focus on certain areas more carefully. She has long experience and wisdom. We are searching a new Dean for Azrieli, Dr. Erica Brown heads the committee. Collecting resumes. Searching for a new head librarian, headed by Dr Nisel. Interviews have started.

Avri: Are faculty involved in policy discussions?

Selma: we are looking at existing policies at undergrad and Dr Nissel is looking into the graduate level and see how to adopt them.

James: what policies are we referring to?

S: I will send you the undergrad policies and you can send them to the whole group. It has been around for a long time.

Avri – can  Haim attend one of the meetings of the council?

Tamar – currently there are no clear policies across the board for graduate programs, hence there is a need to apply some of these to the graduate.

Selma – inviting Haim is a great idea. We are saddened by the higher education situation in light of the political environment.

Avri – we had a speaker from Israel who was happy to say that unlike other schools he had visited, everything at YU seemed normal.

*(Vladimir Kovtun taking minutes)*

Selma: We do not know how number of students and faculty who are impacted by current events.

We are letting students and faculty know that if they are having issues at their universities, they should look and contact Yeshiva University.

We do not know if there will be additional lines available, but the provost’s office should be contacted regarding requests.

Gabe and Avri met with the president and talked about faculty wages. The president said that the faculty were most important to the university. The budget for 2025 is being finalized. There will be an adjustment in compensation or benefits for faculty.

James: Have there been developments to fundraising due to ongoing events?

Selma: Everyone is sending emails. Deep pocketed individuals have given pause to philanthropy for the time being, but we are hoping that they will move donations to YU.

*Avri discussed meeting with President Berman.*

General comments:

Initiatives by the council will lead to more power for the council.

Discussed commenting on governance to middlestates and setting up meeting with deans to discuss governance.

* In the Middle States self-study document we can make suggestions about the role of faculty council. We can stress shared governance. We should be specific and give examples.

**Closed Session.**

**Next Meeting (short):**

June 7th, 2024

Adjourned: 1 pm