

YU Faculty Council
November 18, 2016
Minutes

Present: Alex Citanna (SCW), Gabriel Cwilich (YC), James Kahn (YC), Moshe Krakowski (Azrieli), Will Lee (YC), Leslie Salzman (CSL), Charles Swencionis (Ferkau).

Present for open session: Selma Botman, Michael Strauss (Sy Syms) and Paul Russo (Katz)

Julie Auster made a presentation about the current status of employee benefits. She has been working for the last 7 months with a faculty benefits committee and welcomes additional interested faculty to join the committee. Yeshiva has now adopted a Pregnancy and Childbirth policy.

With regard to health benefits, she has been able to expand the pool of in-network providers, reduce co-pays and deductibles, and do away with mandatory mail order prescriptions. In addition, going forward members will have more control over spending monies in their health savings accounts.

Julie Auster said that she has gotten a commitment from the university leadership that they will resume retirement contributions when "the budget frees up." A commitment to regular salary increases and retirement contributions is the next goal.

Selma Botman distributed a draft travel policy, and welcomed comments. Under the policy, faculty should request travel funds early in the year because travel requests will be addressed by the Dean's office in the order received, with some preference for tenure track faculty. Faculty may apply for up to two trips per year. An FC member recommended reserving some portion of the annual travel funds in the event a faculty member learns of an important conference later in the year. Selma said that YU will give travel funds to the respective Deans and faculty should discuss further details with their Dean.

Strategic Planning is on-going.

YU will be hiring an in-house sponsored research director to replace Ellucian in summer 2017. While Ellucian provided significant assistance with grant administration issues, particularly at Einstein, it was now preferable to have someone in house to assist faculty in obtaining and administering grant funds. YU will also be seeking institutional grants.

YU will be contracting with Digital Measures to provide a web-based tool for capturing and showcasing faculty activities and accomplishments. The website will interface with faculty webpages to collect information and run reports. Additional questions about this project should be referred to Tim Stevens. The FC asked that YU administration send an annual communication with faculty reminding them to update webpage information.

YU has received authorization from the State Education Department to offer an Associate Degree in management that will be run through the Katz School. The program will offer a mix of core liberal arts studies and college experience courses, and will most likely begin with 15 men/15 women. Eligible graduates of this AS in Management program may complete bachelor's studies at Sy Syms.

There was a discussion of how to evaluate faculty shared by two schools for purposes of awarding tenure. Selma Botman said that this should be done fairly so that the faculty member is properly credited for all work. She will prepare a draft policy. Will and Gabe offered to provide her with examples of some past difficult tenure situations involving faculty teaching in more than one school to help inform the development of this policy. Selma also noted that it would make sense to consider the tenure implications of teaching in different schools when setting teaching assignments.

Selma informed the FC that Ari Berman would attend the YU Hanukah dinner in December, return to Israel and then begin some part-time work during the period from March-June, with his formal tenure as President to begin July 1st.

The FC discussed meeting with the new president as early as possible and to establish an on-going and productive dialogue with him throughout his tenure.

There was also some discussion about inviting Paul Russo to speak with us at a future meeting.