

MINUTES OF FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING 10/26/2018  
Minutes by Lynn Levy

Resolutions are in bold.

- I. **Minutes from the Previous Meeting were unanimously approved.**
- II. Provost's Report (Provost was not present) as related by Avri
  - A. Number of Resignations and Retirement Across the University
    1. 6 people retired
    2. 7 people resigned (At least two had received significant grants representing a loss of \$\$ to the university)
    3. 2 passed away
- III. Faculty Handbook
  - A. The Provost had indicated that all issues related in any way to the Board of Trustees could not be approved by the Provost, but MUST go to the Board of Trustees for approval.
  - B. Questions were raised as to whether the Faculty Council should have the power to vote on approval of new programs and schools to be formed in the university. Charles Swencionis suggested that the Faculty Handbook include inter-school programs and New schools
  - C. Programs specific to each school are decided within the respective schools.
  - D. The Provost added the provision that (paraphrased) 'any item within the handbook may be changed by the Provost's office'
    - F. The council did not have a chance to vote on the following:  
page 4, compare to 2013 Handbook  
[https://www.yu.edu/sites/default/files/legacy/uploadedfiles/Academics/Office\\_of\\_The\\_Provost/Office\\_of\\_The\\_Provost-Placeholder/Faculty/Faculty%20Handbook%20-%202013.pdf](https://www.yu.edu/sites/default/files/legacy/uploadedfiles/Academics/Office_of_The_Provost/Office_of_The_Provost-Placeholder/Faculty/Faculty%20Handbook%20-%202013.pdf) page 11, the list of faculty governance duties has been shortened.  
  
page 5, compare to 2013 Handbook page 12, rather than 1 FC representative per 15 faculty members of any school, each school gets two FC representatives.  
  
page 24, compare to 2013 Handbook pp. 33-36 challenge of administration action can be made by the affected faculty member to the Faculty Review Committee within 30 days, but the burden of proof has been shifted from the University to the faculty member.  
  
page 25, compare to 2013 Handbook page 120 removes "review by the Faculty Council" from necessary approvals for changes to the Faculty Handbook.
- IV. Benefits Committee Meeting Report from October 23 by Kyron Huigens
  - A. Most salient point was that the Retirement match would be increased from 3% - 4% in the coming year.
  - B. The cost of Health benefits would be increased from 3% - 4% resulting in slight additional costs to employees.
    1. The university will now be self-insured and Empire/Blue Cross will be responsible for oversight, which should not change anything substantially for employees, according to Julie Auster (Meeting with Executive Committee, November 9th)
    2. University is seeking to reduce their cost for health benefits next year by \$1 million dollars, which will significantly impact faculty contributions, deductibles, and copays. This will require a response from the Faculty Council.
- V. Report on University-wide Symposia (Avri)

- A. There will a symposium on November 16th on Gender Studies and Discrimination. Details to follow
- VI. Middle States Re-Accreditation
- A. Tim Stevens presented that this will take place in 2023-2024. The self study process will begin earlier and he was hoping for volunteers to assist in the process of the self study, acting as leaders in their schools.
  - B. He handed out Standards for Accreditation

Executive Meeting

**I. Officers - Avri and Charles were approved unanimously as co-presidents for the academic year.**

II. It was proposed that each Council member meet with their Governance Committee to share the survey with the purpose of getting guidance in how faculty would like to move forward. It should be reported that the Faculty Council has considered disbanding the Council if some simple demands are not met. This should be done prior to the next FC Meeting. Some of the demands are, as follows:

- A. Salary increased
- B. Faculty Approval of Inter-school programs and New Programs
- C. FC Input into Budget for University Budget
- D. FC should be empowered to retain individual Counsel paid for by the University
- E. Administrative Support for the FC

The Faculty Council finally voted on one additional item regarding the Faculty Handbook. **The Council unanimously rejected the deletion on Page 25 that meant that changes in the Faculty Handbook could be made without the FC approval.**

**Meeting adjourned.**