

YU Faculty Council
February 2, 2017
Minutes

Present: Gabriel Cwilich (YC), Marina Holz (SCW), James Kahn (YC), Will Lee (YC), Lynn Levy (WSSW), Avri Ravid (Syms), Daniel Rynhold (Revel), Leslie Salzman (CSL), Charles Swencionis (Ferkauf), Raji Viswananthan (YC), Sumanta Goswami (YC).

Present for open session: Selma Botman, Michael Strauss (Sy Syms)

Faculty Council approved December Minutes.

Charles Swencionis reported that he spoke with Daniel Gordon about setting up meeting with the President-elect.

Provost Botman gave the following report:

The representative from the Fulbright program came to YU to discuss program opportunities with YU faculty.

YU has completed its search for a Director of Sponsored Programs and has hired Marina Vasilyeva, previously an associate director for award pre-proposal support at the Research Foundation of CUNY. Ms. Vasilyeva will shadow Ellucian during the months of March, April and May to familiarize herself with YU's grant operations.

YU is also in the process of a search for the Director of Graduate Enrollment Management and will also be conducting a search for the Dean of Sy Syms school to replace Moses Pava.

Ellucian is now YU's vendor for IT services and James Vasquez, formerly from Ellucian, is in charge of YU's Information Services. YU has now implemented a 24 hour helpdesk.

YU's University Author event will be held on May 4th in the late afternoon. Thus far, 40 faculty members have responded to the invitation.

The Provost would like to ensure that the tenure process transparent. A meeting with tenure-track faculty will be scheduled in the fall to discuss the tenure process and criteria. Attendance will be voluntary. Because this is a decanal issue, the Provost's Office is also engaged in some efforts to assist Deans with mentoring of tenure-track faculty.

The Academic Standards Committee needs another faculty council member while Gabe Cwilich is out on sabbatical. James Kahn, the other FC member on the Academic Standards Committee, will stand in for both at the upcoming meeting.

Paul Glassman, Director of Libraries is working on YU's digital repository and is looking for faculty representatives for a committee to discuss the scope of the digital repository.

The Provost requested that the Faculty Council speak to respective faculty members to encourage them to attend Commencement as faculty attendance is appreciated by students and their families. YU commencement will be held on May 25, 2017.

Several new YU programs have been approved by State Education or have been submitted and awaiting approval.

There was further discussion about the tenure process and tenure criteria with the Provost and the Provost's efforts to ensure that new faculty are informed of tenure expectations. Will Lee recommended that YU publish materials explaining the tenure process and tenure criteria so that tenure track faculty have a clear understanding of the tenure expectations. Lynn Levy described Werzweiler's effective process of informing all incoming tenure track faculty about tenure expectations and directing them to speak to their department chairs about the tenure process and expectations.

There was also a discussion about the thinning of departments at a number of schools—with some departments at some schools having only one or two faculty members. Issues raised were student needs and whether schools should re-consider current required courses, complications raised by Halachic constraints on integrating YU and Stern students, whether we should consider using distinguished adjuncts to fill gaps in faculty, whether there might be affordable and reliable on-line courses, including synchronous on-line courses, and whether YU should consider modification of the current on-line course limitation (4 on-line courses). All recognized that training and instructional assistance would be needed to help participating faculty transition from face-to-face to on-line teaching.

A Task Force should be formed to study and propose solutions to the thinning of departments. The FC will open this Task Force to interested faculty volunteers.

Vickey Edge and Paul Oestreicher are the contact people for communications and the website.

Exec Session

The FC discussed the purpose of the faculty council, the scope of its role in faculty governance, and actions that are appropriate in light of this purpose.

FC will seek representation on the YU Board's Finance Committee. In addition, the FC will bring to the attention of the new President that faculty has not had a salary increase or retirement contributions since 2008. Improvements in salary and benefits are needed to ensure academic excellence and retain faculty. The FC will seek data on the number of faculty members and current salaries broken down by faculty status, along with data on faculty attrition over the last several years.