Minutes of the Faculty Council meeting on 2/9/18

In attendance: Selma Botman (provost), Avri Ravid (SYMS), James Kahn (YC), Maria Blekher (Katz), Julie Suk (Cardozo), Anna-Lisa Cohen (YC), Barry Eichler (YC), Gabriel Cwilich (Yc), Will Lee (YC), ? (CSL)

Avri initiated a discussion about the quorum requirements. The number of counselors and the number of schools represented.

2 items on the agenda:

- Provost report
- Charles proposal

Provost Report:

Yeshiva University has hired a new head of communication and public affairs who comes to us from the corporate sector. He is a very experienced marketer, brander. He has close connections to the University. He began this week and will make the rounds meeting people and learning about us. His job will be to help up to project ourselves into the world.

Avri suggested we invite the new head of communication to council meeting to discuss how we can work together to promote the university.

Avri asked if there was anything done regarding university ranking.

Selma mentioned that one possibility of moving us forward is in the reputational indicator which is 25% of the score.

Another item in the provost report was a search committee for an associate dean for academic affairs for YC.

1. External review of career center and alumni affair operation- Both offices work closely- the goal is to learn from industry and best practices.
2. Mark Goldman is leaving, will be searching for a new director

Discussion about external review:

The goal of external reviews is to obtain a feedback on curriculum, teaching etc. Their report is shared with the department and the administration.

Usually they look at the curriculum, infrastructure, facilities, faculty with the goal of bringing faculty up to standards and improving departments. It's important for undergraduate faculty to decide what is important for them.

Reviews that were done in the past were really effective. In terms of preparation it might make sense to ask for an internal review in which the faculty members here will do their own research and see what it's like from their point of view.

It was suggested that the academic affairs subcommittee create a proposal (this semester)

Selma proposed an interdisciplinary symposium (people from different fields discuss the same topic) a discussion ensued as to how to organize the symposium. Suggestions included having some panels,

paired with interdisciplinary interest- to promote research and opportunity for faculty to collaborate and cooperate- university wide. Question about funding was raised. A date should be saved for the event/ event series. Avri and Julie agreed to pursue this idea further.

Changes to faculty handbook

- Charles proposal (James reading)
    - "meet regularly instead of monthly, at least twice per semester"
    - 2 permanent committee (words from the handbook)
        - Budget/finance
            - Meet monthly at regular board meetings
            - Chief financial officer and executive vice president discuss upcoming financial
            - 2 members will meet with the finance committee of the board
        - Executive committee/academic affairs
            - Meet monthly
            - Purpose of decisions
            - Send 2 representatives to the academic affair committee
            - Is this saying that executive committee and academic affairs are the same/
- How to proceed→ these are two aspects that we find important (proposals)
    - Academic affair/ Executive committee
        - Reflects current practice
        - We want the same to go on
    - Budget/ finance will meet regularly
        - Will we actually meet monthly
        - Will there be resistance
        - Apply again to get representation
        - Meet twice a semester
    - Representation on the budget and finance committee
        - Separate into 2 resolutions
            - What we want
            - What the administration may approve.
        - We have to take advantage of what we achieve and what we already have
            - Building off the success

Vote on the amended resolution:

Change- approved

Voted for- approved

A discussion ensued as to how the committees would be structured and who should be there and the agreement was that each FC member should be at least on one committee.

Finally Quorum was discussed again.

- If it's not in the handbook then it's in the bylaws which means it is up to us to define it
- We should define it in a way that doesn't box us in.