

FSAC Minutes

October 16, 2008

1:00 - 3:00 Sue Jameson Room

Present: Sunil Tiwari, Carlos Ayala, Paula Hammett, Richard Senghas, Jane Sutanonpaiboon, Beth Warner, Helmut Wautischer (recorder)

Absent: Melinda Barnard

Guest: Victor Garlin

Convened at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Approved as amended: add report (#5, RTP update - Paula Hammett), delete business item 6 (duplicate) and change 7 to 6.

Approval of Minutes: Approved with two minor corrections: in report lines 1a and 3c. Business line item 1.d.ii: replace with "40:30:20:10 has not been a rule, but a guideline," line item 1.e: replace with "Sabbatical application was due on Oct 15, the criteria is 40:30:30," and add line item 2.i: "Victor Garlin, on behalf of CFA, suggested that FSAC draft its own PPI document."

Reports:

Tiwari (chair of FSAC) reports that Excom is currently reviewing a proposal by AMCS for offering a self-supporting minor in Jewish studies. Also, there is a need for establishing an appeals procedure for PPI (addressed in business item 3).

Barnard (faculty affairs) – no proxy assigned to attend this meeting.

Wautischer (academic freedom subcommittee) asked for advice on the current state of the SSU job fair code of conduct. Garlin suggested AFS to consult with Chuck Rhodes for fact-finding. AFS requested information on the interim textbook-order policy to assess if there is a potential conflict with academic freedom. Discussion moved to business item 4.

Sutanonpaiboon (professional development subcommittee) – submitted printed report.

Hammett (RTP committee) – All scheduled meetings with departments to disseminate knowledge about the revised RTP policy have been completed. A document is currently produced to summarize all items that need clarification, and will be presented to FSAC for assessment.

Business Items:

Item 1, Advising information for transfer students. The current PeopleSoft grid is insufficient for advising. Amanda McGowan (CMS) works with the software developer to extract a suitable template. A priority call from faculty would be helpful to expedite results. Faculty workload is negatively impacted with the current model. FSAC agrees that Tiwari should bring this matter to the attention of Excom.

Item 2, RTP departmental criteria. Department criteria are to be submitted to FSAC by December. Potential problems are identified, such as, criteria development for programs not affiliated with a particular department (e.g., human development, global studies). It is noted that Lecturers are not subject to this policy, since they are reviewed by peers only. Tiwari will forward submitted criteria to FSAC members for discussion at the last November meeting – it is understood that these preliminary documents will be treated confidentially and will not be disseminated beyond FSAC.

Item 3, PPI update. It is not clear what role, if any, FSAC is given concerning this topic. Ayala moved that FSAC requests access to the agreement between CSU and CFA for conducting a review. Motion passed. FSAC agreed that Tiwari informs Excom to consider a formal request from Structures & Function to create a PPI appeals committee.

Item 4, Textbook adoption policy. After a brief discussion, several problems with such policy had been identified: (a) budget stability is necessary for sound course offering decisions, (b) course offerings are not known to departments by early timeline, (c) academic freedom might be impacted, (d) how to avoid unintended curriculum control, (e) waste of resource when class is canceled, or if no student uses the service. FSAC agrees to postpone the discussion to a later meeting and asks Garlin to inquire with AAUP (Michael Mauer – mmauer@aaup.org) if any conflicts of interest are perceived concerning academic freedom and compliance with anti-discrimination statutes.

Item 5, Excellence in teaching award. Not discussed.

Item 6, Response to president's report. Not discussed.

Adjourned 2:56 p.m.