

Faculty Standards & Affairs Committee
Business Meeting Minutes
4 April 2009
1:00-3:00 PM Sue Jameson Room

Present: Sunil Tiwari (chair), Paula Hammett, Richard J. Senghas (recorder), Janejira Sutanonpaiboon, Helmut Wautischer, Carlos Ayala, Beth Warner, Melinda Barnard, Victor Garlin

Absent: N/A

Convened at 1:05 PM

Approved agenda, with addition of RTP as first business item.

[Previous minutes not available for approval at meeting time.]

Reports:

Chair's Report: Sunil reports that all the RTP Criteria letters have been signed and sent to the departments; no formal word back. Some activities within the departments seem to be occurring as a response. Chair, due to last-minute issue, had to miss ExCom last week.

Vice Provost/Faculty Affairs: Melinda raised the situation of a faculty member who has been feeling intimidated by a student in the classroom, but the behavior apparently is not at the level that seems to violate the Student Code of Conduct. Melinda solicits input from faculty as to how to handle this case. (Response: perhaps the chair of the department would be an appropriate mediator, or can the student's advisor be invoked. Is this something that the Statement of Collegiality might address in any way?)

Academic Freedom Subcommittee: (Helmut) Tryon Woods has been re-elected as chair, and that there will be a significant turnover in the subcommittee. Perhaps a new proxy to FSAC will need to be identified. Free speech and Textbook Adoption Policy issues "not in their court" for now, so they are waiting for new business to take care of....

Professional Development Subcommittee: Janejira No report; subcommittee meets next Monday.

URTP: (Paula) Working on RTP files, and will be discussion what process and criteria will be used for ranking promotion recommendations.

Business Items:

Item #0: University RTP Policy “Cleanup” (Paula) 4PM Time Certain at today’s senate meeting for second reading. Previous reading went well, with four items of concern raised. See handout for draft 4/2/2009 letter from FSAC to Academic Senate drafted by Paula, with recommended changes.

#1 Add recommended language indicating a candidate’s signature acknowledges receipt of document, not concurrence with any findings.

#2 Add recommended language clarifying that conditional one-year reappointment is not available to candidates applying for tenure.

#3 Add recommended language regarding timing of submission of peer observation, with modification of referring to “10 days” instead of “two weeks”.

#4 Add language regarding page limits for Self-Assessment document, that “ordinarily” documents will be limited to 5 pages.

Item #1: Election of Chair (Sunil). Paula will be chair for the fall, backed up by Richard; Richard will take over as chair for Spring 2010 semester. The chair is asked to contact Structure & Functions regarding whether or not school elections could be moved forward so that committee chair appointments (and other positions with release time) can be identified in a timely manner.

Item #2: Excellence in Teaching Awards; EITA (Sunil). Revisions as previously worked out will be forwarded to Senate for 23 April 2009 meeting. Melinda reports that the benefactors previously funding the second award are unlikely to restore funding for the award.

Item #3: SETE results comparison (Sunil). Beth reminded us that we had discussed about departmental (or other level) comparisons previously, and that Bruce Carp in IT does the scanning and reporting, and the data produced are not stored, and therefore are not available for ready comparison. Rose Bruce mentioned in a letter replying to Beth’s inquiries that in the past, the current SETE processing was established because we wanted instructors evaluated on a standard of excellence, not evaluated relative to each other (i.e., what if all faculty are “excellent”). There is concern about the quality of the SETE data. There is concern that operationalizing assessment in increasingly quantitative and universalist terms, especially in comparative terms, could have counter-productive effects. Qualitative assessments are increasingly recognized as useful. Departments are welcome to use quantitative data provided by SETEs in ways they wish, including generating departmental-aggregate statistics. This does not seem desirable across the university.

Item #4: Textbook Adoption Policy update (Richard). Item deferred.

Item #5: Faculty Development Fund (Sunil, Art Warmouth, PDS). APC recommends that FSAC is be asked to review priorities used for allocation and disbursement of FD funds, so that funds be considered according to priorities that faculty value (e.g., research, curriculum development). AABAC has weighed in on the allocation of these funds, but there is concern that the administration will want to use these funds along administrative priorities, rather than faculty priorities. Perhaps release time for new faculty for new course preparation could be used to hire lecturers to replace those new faculty members. The committee chair will ask the provost to inform us as to past allocations and their effects, what models and documents are being used for future decisions, and perhaps ideas on effective ways that FSAC could provide useful input to these processes, given this committee's charge.

Item #6: Response to president's August 2008 memo. Item deferred.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48.