

Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2014

Opening

The meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) – Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:45 pm in the University Center, 218 (Chickasaw Room), by Jenny Fowler.

Present

Jenny Fowler, Phillip Ye, John Schwartz, Bonnie Ownley, David Harper, Jo Anne Deeken, Chris Cherry, Iris Goodwin (Phillip Daves is stepping down from the committee this year)

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of previous meeting were approved via email.

Old Business

The Academic Freedom policy was approved at the last senate meeting of last year. This concludes our work on that.

Open Issues

The following items are issues that John Zomchick would like for us to address. We discussed inviting him to come to our next meeting to talk with us about what new policies are needed for the Faculty Handbook.

- Retention Review policy changes for Faculty Handbook (this was discussed at an Executive Council meeting in October 2013 <http://senate-utk-edu.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/2013/08/Exec.-Minutes-October-2013.pdf> and at the Senate meeting of Oct. 2013 http://senate-utk-edu.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/2013/08/October-2013.min_.pdf)
- Tenured Faculty Termination policy changes for Faculty Handbook

New Business

The following bylaws items need to be cleared up from last year. Changes to the bylaws must be read in front of the senate 28 days before a vote and then approved by 2/3 majority of quorum. (Since these items were already read before the senate last year, the only thing needed is to vote this year.)

- Adding the student SGA president as an ex-officio member of the faculty senate.
- Changing the title of Information Officer to Communication Officer (Rob Spirko)

The following items will/may require changes to the faculty handbook:

- Including language on outreach and engagement in chapters 2 and 3 of the Faculty Handbook
- Titles for Extension Faculty: There has been a request to create non-tenure-track titles for UTIA extension faculty that include the ranks of assistant, associate, and full professor. These faculty have the necessary credentials for faculty rank. D. Golden referred this request to the Faculty Affairs Committee. J. Fowler has begun working with Tim Cross (Dean of UT Extension) on this issue. Tim Cross will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss.
- Sexual Misconduct Policy (an interim policy was recently put in place – a task force has been created to create a permanent policy)

There was some discussion about the composition of Department Head search committee requirements for under-represented groups such as minorities and women. Another committee on campus, the STRIDE committee, is currently dealing with this matter.

Agenda for Future Meetings

Plans will be made to invite John Zomchick and Tim Cross to future meetings. Our future meetings for the fall semester were set for 2:45 PM on Friday afternoons. The next meeting was set for Friday, Sept. 26, followed by meetings on Oct. 24 and Nov. 21 (if needed). Location will most likely be Hodges Library 220E.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm by Jenny Fowler.

Minutes submitted by: Jenny Fowler