

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee

January 25, 2012

Present: Kris Bartanen, Geoffrey Block, Alva Butcher (chair), Leon Grunberg, Andy Rex, Doug Sackman, and Seth Weinberger

The meeting was convened shortly after 11:00 a.m. in Wyatt 226.

After the approval of the minutes of the December 2, 2011 meeting, the Chair Alva Butcher re-distributed the four charges for the PSC as determined by the Faculty Senate on November 14, 2011, reminded the committee of two ongoing items of business, and introduced two new items of business. The Committee then discussed the meaning, scope, status, and prioritization of the Senate charges, the ongoing and new business, and assigned most of the items to the two subcommittees from last semester.

These are the four Senate charges and the PSC plan to address to address them:

- 1. Review potential for more family-friendly “stop the clock” provisions related to the intersection of the timing of evaluations and personal medical, family medical, and/or parental leave.** Assigned to the Grunberg, Hastings, Rex Subcommittee who will meet next week and will report their recommendations to the full PSC committee at a future meeting this semester.
- 2. Review the policy of Background Checks of Faculty, being drafted by the Human Resources Department.** The PSC is awaiting further information before it is able to consider this charge and does not expect to receive this in time to address this charge during the current academic year.
- 3. Consult with the IRB as they review the “Scientific Misconduct Policy” and suggest changes to existing documents as needed to achieve consistency among the various response processes in the case of research misconduct.** The PSC decided to take up this charge as a full committee and to invite Lisa Ferrari and Garrett Milam to discuss the policy and address several questions posed by the Committee. In a follow-up email after the meeting Alva informed the PSC that a meeting with Lisa and Garrett will take place on February 22.
- 4. Review how the following provision regarding consensual sexual relationships contained in the Campus Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Harassment and Sexual Misconduct is applied with respect to supervisory responsibility and evaluation: “In accord with the university’s conflict of interest provisions, this policy prohibits faculty or staff members from exercising supervisory responsibility with respect to another faculty or staff member with whom they are involved in a consensual sexual relationship.”** Assigned to the Block, Sackman, Weinberger Subcommittee who will

meet next week and will report their recommendations to the full PSC Committee at a future meeting this semester.

These are the two new items for the PSC to consider this semester:

1. Review two evaluation forms for PT

a. Puget Sound Evaluation Form—Onsite Clinic

b. Puget Sound Research Mentor Evaluation Form

This item was assigned to the Block, Sackman, Weinberger Subcommittee. In considering this assignment the Subcommittee was asked whether it might be possible to fulfill the needs of PT with one new evaluation form rather than two. The Subcommittee will meet next week and will report their recommendations to the full PSC Committee this semester.

2. Review the department statements on the use of course assistants. Departments using course assistants are: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Communication Studies, Comparative Sociology, Economics, Environmental Policy and Decision Making, Exercise Science, Geology, Math and Computer Science, Occupational Therapy, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, and Physical Therapy [a total of 15 departments].

Assigned to the Grunberg, Hastings, Rex Subcommittee who will meet next week and will report their recommendations to the full PSC Committee at a future meeting this semester.

After deciding to postpone further discussion of various minor issues related to the English Departmental Evaluation Criteria, the Committee completed its hour by discussing the other ongoing item of business, that being a possible amendment of the Faculty Code to clarify participation in faculty evaluations by non-tenure-line faculty. The Committee adjourned at about 11:55 a.m. without reaching a conclusion.

After the subcommittees have had a chance to address the Senate charges and the new business described above, the PSC is scheduled to meet again as a full committee on February 8.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Block