

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee
January 23, 2009

Present: Sigrun Bodine, Julie Nelson Christoph, Julian Edgoose, Barry Goldstein, William Haltom, George Tomlin, Lisa Wood **Guest:** John Hickey

The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. in Wyatt 226.

Chair Tomlin welcomed the members of the Professional Standards Committee to the first meeting of Spring Semester.

With a sentence struck, the minutes of 12-12-2008 were approved.

John Hickey conversed with the PSC regarding a draft of a Violence Prevention Policy. Mr. Hickey observed that the PSC was being consulted owing to its familiarity with *The Faculty Code* as numerous other groups and constituents had been consulted for their general impressions and specific proficiencies. Members of the sub-committee [Professors Christoph and Wood] and other members of the PSC provided Mr. Hickey feedback.

In response to questions, Mr. Hickey explained that the draft was detailed so that it might define violence adequately and inclusively; so that it might reveal connections or intersections with other policies [the Sexual Harassment Policy, for instance]; and so that it might specify steps to be taken when emergencies arise. Mr. Hickey conceded that those aims might make the draft a bit prolix or complex, but he reminded all present that the draft had to articulate what laws demand, what the campus community expects, and step-by-step routines adapted to circumstances only partly foreseen. He directed the committee to a highlighted passage on p. 2 of the draft that summarized the draft's contents. He allowed that a pithy guide appropriate to emergencies might be an excellent follow-up document.

Mr. Hickey discussed as well overlaps between the Sexual Harassment Policy and the draft. Although harassment is often more psychological or attitudinal than violence and violence is usually more physically threatening or coercive than harassment, harassment and violence frequently interrelate, so the relationship of each policy to the other must be scrutinized.

Mr. Hickey opined that in the event of the discharge of a weapon on campus, Security Services and the Tacoma Police Department should be contacted immediately. Dialing Security Services [3311] under such circumstances should lead trained security personnel to dial 911, so specifically directing members of the campus community to dial 911 first need not expedite and might even retard notification of Tacoma police.

The PSC thanked Mr. Hickey for his time and efforts. Mr. Hickey agreed to provide Professors Christoph, Edgoose, and Wood with subsequent drafts of the Violence Prevention Policy for further review and comment.

At 2:00 p.m., the committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

William Haltom