

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee

September 25, 2009

Present: Kris Bartanen , Rob Beezer, Geoffrey Block, Jo Crane, Barry Goldstein, William Haltom (chair), Lisa Fortlouis Wood

Absent: Alva Butcher

Convened: The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. in Wyatt 226.

Minutes:

The committee resoundingly approved the minutes of September 18, 2009 without changes.

Dean Bartanen noted that last summer, perhaps even “suddenly last summer” and without major fanfare, the guidelines for each department, school, or program have been posted on a campus-accessible Faculty website

The committee next reviewed PSC charges for the 2009-2010 academic year listed in a memo from the Chair of the Faculty Senate, Douglas Cannon, to PSC Chair, Bill Haltom and the PSC (“RE: Proto-Charges, September 18, 2009”).

What follows is a summary the PSC response to these charges:

1. *Conduct usual business.*
This is a perpetual and ongoing charge.
2. *Clarify the definition of “tenure-line faculty.”*
Last week the PSC offered an informal interpretation on this issue (see PSC Minutes, September 18, 2009).
3. *Clarify the process to be followed when an evaluatee makes informal and formal challenges to the evaluation conducted by a department, program, or school.*
The PSC is working on this charge and will forward its conclusions in due course.
4. *Review the policy on Background Checks of Faculty, being drafted by the Human Resources department.*
The PSC is awaiting the report from Human Resources.
5. *Establish the procedure for evaluation of faculty holding interdisciplinary appointments to be specified at the time of hire.*
The PSC is working on this charge.

6. *Add text to the preamble of student evaluations to discourage any student from writing harassing language in an evaluation of faculty.*
The PSC will consider this charge.
7. *Review the “Research Misconduct Policy” document and suggest changes to existing documents as needed to achieve consistency among the various response processes in the case of research misconduct.*
The PSC is currently awaiting a decision on this issue from the Institutional Review Board.
8. *Review the “Violence Prevention Policy” currently under revision.*
The PSC is happy to note that this charge was completed in the summer of 2009 and that a report has been distributed to all faculty.

Charges Nos. 9-12 are also pending.

After some discussion on the nuances of the above charges, the committee, led by Barry Goldstein, turned to the April 30, 2009 memo to the PSC, “RE: Informal and Formal Challenges to Evaluation of Faculty” (from Barry Goldstein and Bill Haltom). The committee agreed that a subcommittee should proceed to make a recommendation on item 3 of this memo. The committee will return to this item next week.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Block