

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee, 10/23/09

Present: Beezer, Block, Butcher, Crane, Goldstein, Haltom, Wood

The meeting commenced at 2:00 PM.

The minutes of 10/09/09 were approved.

The Chair announced that the Faculty Senate will develop formal charges for the PSC to consider for the 09/10 academic year at its next meeting on 10/26, and will then transmit those charges to the PSC (these formal charges will be separate from those included in an email circulated by Keith Ward, Senate liaison to the PSC, referred to as "Proposed Charges to the PSC, 2009-2010").

The discussion then turned to a variety of items that the PSC has already been considering this semester:

1) The faculty teaching evaluation form (filled out by students in class): a question was raised about where the responsibility lies for overseeing revisions of this form. Should the PSC take the initiative, or wait for any specific charge(s) from the Senate? The PSC will decide on a course of action only when and if the Senate formally and specifically charges us.

2) Next, it was decided that if the issue of carrying out faculty evaluations electronically is referred to the PSC by the Senate, it would be preferable to first have an ad hoc committee (composed of faculty interested in this issue) develop a specific proposal, and then have the PSC review that document.

3) Item #9 (from the "Proposed Charges" memo: Clarify when participants in a faculty evaluation should learn of any special provisions in the appointment contract of the faculty member being evaluated) was discussed, specifically regarding how it is distinct from Item #4 (Establish the procedure for evaluation of faculty holding interdisciplinary appointments to be specified at the time of hire). Some clarification and background was provided by a committee member who was a former member of the FAC, and comments were also provided by other committee members with experience with evaluations involving special, and undisclosed, provisions in the initial appointment (hiring) letter. Some thoughts were offered regarding how those special provisions should be made more available to all faculty involved in an evaluation and who are located within the appropriate department(s). It was decided that this matter should be considered further, that the discussion would particularly benefit by input from the Dean (who was not present today), and that the PSC will then decide whether to formally pursue the issue.

4) The issue of the desirability of creating standardized language for the "Professional Growth" section of all Departmental Evaluation Guideline documents across the University was discussed. The PSC will wait for a formal Senate charge before addressing this matter, and, if we are so charged, that process will include a

reexamination of the portion of the "Buff Document" that offers guidelines to faculty members for preparation of the Professional Growth section of their evaluation statements.

We then turned to new business:

The subcommittee charged with reviewing the proposed Departmental Evaluation Guidelines for OT/PT raised some issues that might benefit from discussion by the full PSC. This discussion will continue at the next meeting, and the subcommittee will then transmit any concerns or comments on the proposed Evaluation Guidelines to OT/PT.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Goldstein