

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee:
March 19, 2007

PRESENT: Kris Bartanen, Sigrun Bodine, Doug Cannon, Julian Edgoose, Karl Fields, Grace Kirchner, George Tomlin.

Kirchner convened the meeting at 11:03 am.

The minutes of the March 5, 2007, meeting were approved after some minor clarifications and revisions.

There were no announcements.

There was no new business.

For the remainder of the meeting, the committee continued its discussions of revisions to Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7 of the *Faculty Code*.

Kirchner reported that the first reading of the proposed amendment to Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7 was, as requested, on the agenda of tomorrow's faculty meeting. PSC members felt that it might be helpful for faculty to have an explanation of the rationale for the proposed changes, and Kirchner offered to draft such an introduction.

It was remarked that the PSC still needs to address some open questions in this revision. One is the intended meanings of "non-lawyer counsel" and "academic advisor" in the current wording of the proposed revision to Section 7.a.. Another unresolved question is if an appellant has the right to a second appeal at the same level (department or FAC). As these questions required more time than today's PSC meeting allowed for, the committee discussed a possible new timetable for the first and second reading of the proposed amendment by the faculty. The PSC felt strongly that the second reading should not be postponed until AY 2007-2008. After some discussion, the committee agreed to postpone the first reading until the faculty meeting of April 17, 2007, and to ask the Senate to request an additional faculty meeting for Tuesday, May 1 for the second reading of the proposed amendments.

The PSC then returned to a discussion of Section 7.a. in the revised code (which includes Sections 7.a. and 7.b. from the current code). In particular, PSC felt that replacing the term "academic advisor" in the language of the current code by "academic colleague" would add clarity. It also felt that the current wording of the Code in Section 7.b. best addresses the appellant's rights to counsel and, after some discussion, the language for the proposed Section 7.a. was revised to read:

A hearing may extend over more than one meeting of a hearing board. The appellant and the respondent may be present at all meetings of a hearing. The respondent may be assisted at a hearing by legal counsel or by non-lawyer counsel. The appellant may be assisted by an academic colleague and acted for by legal or non-lawyer counsel chosen by the faculty member.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sigrun Bodine