

Professional Standards Committee Minutes
February 9, 2006

Members present: Bill Breitenbach, Karl Fields, Grace Kirchner, John Riegsecker, Don Share, Carolyn Weisz.

Chair Weisz called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. The minutes of February 2, 2006 were approved.

Weisz announced that the LMAC chair had inquired if the PSC could offer guidance regarding issues concerning intellectual property rights of faculty authors. The committee agreed with Weisz that this is a legal issue that is best directed to Dean Bartanen and the University attorneys.

Weisz reported that she had not received any feedback from Senators or others regarding proposed revisions to the Faculty Code, Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7. The committee further deliberated on the text of Sections 6 and 7. Based on those deliberations, Weisz will prepare a document that summarizes the sections as amended, and any other proposed changes. That document will be shared with Senators, who will be invited to provide input.

The PSC then turned to a discussion of the definition of tenure-line faculty. In recent years a number of questions have emerged regarding the exact definition of that term. It is not clear from the Code whether the concept of tenure-line refers to the position (the line) or the person who occupies the position. Do faculty members cease to be tenure-line once they are no longer eligible for tenure, and if so, when exactly do they cease to be tenure-line? Do faculty members continue to be tenure-line after receiving notification of their denial of tenure by the Trustees, or during their terminal year after having been denied tenure? PSC members noted that the definition of tenure-line members contained in Chapter 1 of the Faculty Code is unclear and should be clarified.

The PSC agreed to attempt to improve and clarify the current Code language, and hopes to be able to submit some suggestions to the Faculty Senate in the near future.

The PSC will continue its work on Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7, and will continue deliberations regarding the definition of tenure-line faculty. Time permitting, the PSC will provide some feedback to the Diversity Committee on suggested changes to the yearly PSC document entitled "Faculty Evaluation Criteria and Procedures."

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Share