

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee
April 6, 2006

Present: Kris Bartanen, Bill Breitenbach, Grace Kirchner, Sarah Moore, John Riegsecker, Don Share, Carolyn Weisz (chair)

PSC chair Weisz called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. The minutes of the March 30 meeting were approved.

Moore announced that the School of Business and Leadership has submitted a revision of its evaluation guidelines. The subcommittee of Moore and Fields will examine the revised guidelines and report to the entire committee.

Weisz circulated a draft of a possible interpretation of Code chapter III, section 4.a.(1)(c), regarding the participation of first-year faculty members in evaluations of departmental colleagues. The draft interpretation was designed to accomplish two purposes: (1) allow abstentions to be considered “independent recommendations” in evaluation letters, and (2) allow departments to establish provisions for certain department members to observe the deliberative process without having to write evaluation letters. Weisz suggested that PSC solicit responses to this draft interpretation by bringing it to a meeting of second-year faculty members that is scheduled for April 20.

The PSC spent the remainder of the hour discussing the draft, reaching no consensus about it. One area of disagreement was whether the provision of the draft interpretation regarding abstentions should be restricted to first-year faculty members or extended to all faculty members in certain circumstances. Another area of disagreement was whether first-year faculty members should be excused from participating for the entire first year. Another area of disagreement was whether departments collectively or first-year faculty members individually should decide whether first-year faculty members will participate in evaluations. Another area of disagreement was over how to proceed, with various committee members favoring a Code interpretation, a Code amendment, a paragraph in the “buff document,” Faculty Senate action, or no action at all. Committee members agreed to resume discussion of this topic at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,

William Breitenbach