

## **SECOND DRAFT**

### **PROFESSIONAL STANDARD COMMITTEE**

**October 9, 2013**

Present: William Barry, Geoffrey Block, Jennifer Hastings (chair), Tiffany MacBain, Andreas Madlung, Mark Reinitz, and Kurt Walls.

The meeting convened at 8:00am.

The approval of the minutes for our September 18, 2013 meeting was unanimous.

The approval of the minutes for our September 25, 2013 meeting was unanimous.

#### **New Business**

Request from a Chair on clarification regarding the Interpretation of Professional Ethics of Faculty and Relationships of a Consensual Sexual Nature (p 42 in the Faculty Code).

The committee reviewed the interpretation (p.42-43), discussed this particular situation, and agreed that “as written” the colleague must recuse themselves from the search committee.

#### **Work Groups**

Report from the work group assigned to look at the charge “Continue the review of Faculty Code provisions on the guidelines for the use of course assistants”.

- No mention of “course assistants” in the faculty code, only a PSC interpretation from 1986 (p. 40) – lack of definition
- Interpretation is extremely vague
- The work group found contradiction if students are grading for the faculty member - “Course assistants do not replace full or part time faculty” (p. 40, l. 28)
- Are Course Assistants hourly employees, as suggested by L.26 P. 41 “departments should select students who qualify for university matching funds under existing work-study programs” and L.33 P. 41 “department is responsible for working with the university’s Office of Student Employment.
- Committee members voiced concerns about students grading peers

The discussion primarily focused on the confidentiality of Course Assistants grading other students’ work and the possibility of the grading process being anonymous. It was suggested that the Course Assistants know the students

better than the faculty and the knowledge of the students' handwriting would make anonymous grading impossible.

A suggestion was made that our chair will draft and circulate an email to departmental chairs to get their response to their current use of Course Assistants.

There will be no PSC meeting next Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> due to a previously scheduled Chair and Directors' meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kurt Walls