

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 10, 2015, 8:00 a.m., Wyatt 226

Present: Kris Bartanen, Geoffrey Block, Douglas Cannon, Betsy Kirkpatrick, Tiffany Aldrich MacBain (Chair), Andreas Madlung, Mark Reinitz, Amy Spivey

The meeting convened at 8:00 a.m. and the minutes of January 27 were approved with minor corrections.

Before turning to the scheduled agenda items, the Chair informed the Committee of a new Senate charge. This is the charge:

The Faculty Senate charge the Professional Standards and Student Life Committees to collaboratively work with the Bias-Hate Education Response Team to: 1) investigate existing University policies pertaining to the display of materials for campus /public consumption, 2) make recommendations for changes or additions to the existing University policies including the possibility of another statement regarding freedom of expression and 3) consider revision or clarification of the procedures for “immediate response” to reported incidences of Bias-Hate (“Response Protocol of Bias-hate Incidents,” Section V.B.1.).

After the meeting, the Chair forwarded the “existing statement on freedom of expression contained within the ‘Response Protocol of Bias-Hate incidents.’”

(<http://www.pugetsound.edu/files/resources/communicationresponse-protocolfor-biashate-incident/pdf>)

Here is the existing statement:

As a fundamental commitment and as part of the progress we envision, the Puget Sound community protects academic freedom, the open exchange of ideas and creative intellectual expression. Freedom of expression on this campus means equally that we shall not seek to limit individuals’ First Amendment right to express their views and that we shall reject conduct that hinders in any way the right of all to pursue their educational goals in a safe and respectful environment. We understand that these freedoms and rights do not permit us to tolerate speech, symbols, or other actions that are wounding or threaten harm to specific individuals or groups because destructive hostility has no place in open and honest learning” (“Response Protocol of Bias-hate Incidents,” p. 1).

In agreeing to accept the above charge, the consensus of the PSC was that the purview of the PSC is to compare the language of the Code to the existing statement and to inform the Senate to what degree the statement is consistent with the Code.

For the rest of the meeting the Committee discussed the “Statement of Evaluation Criteria and Standards: Department of French Studies.” Kirkpatrick and Reinitz, the Sub-Committee assigned to review the Statement, reported to the full PSC and brought several questions for the

Committee to discuss. The main questions related to various procedural points, clarity of language, and, in the case of class visits, whether it would be realistic to execute all the procedures stated in the document given the size of the department. Since the French Department was eager to complete their revisions, the Committee authorized the Chair to share these initial issues before the Committee continues and hopefully completes its review of the French Department Statement at our next meeting on February 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey Block