

University Enrichment Committee Minutes
October 23, 1998

Present: David Tinsley, John Finney, Bill Barry, Sarah Brock, John McCuiston, Fred Slee, Rand Worland, Paul Huo, David Smith

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Issue of the wording on guidelines for Release Time was discussed. Several applications passed on to the Dean by the Enrichment Committee had not been granted. The Dean felt released units should not be granted if linked to a sabbatical leave or if too many applicants came from one department or if an applicant kept coming back requesting a release unit. Discussion centered around whether the wording should be changed in the guidelines to reflect the Dean's thinking.

Hands wondered if the term "professional service" should be included in the guidelines. McCuiston noted that in some departments no one ever applies because the younger faculty are afraid to do so or because there was a fear basic courses could not be staffed (particularly those who teach core courses). Finney in response to the idea that the Release Unit should be given more publicity suggested that " untenured faculty are especially encouraged to apply" might be put in the guidelines. And an insertion that those who had not applied for a Release Unit before be urged to apply. These suggestions were agreed upon. It was also suggested that wording be inserted that multiple applications from the same department should be avoided.

Discussion then centered on whether the Dean or the Enrichment Committee draw up these guidelines. It was decided that John Finney draft the proposed changes and after they have been circulated among the Committee then be passed on to the Dean.

John Finney passed on the information that the library and some department budgets have been hurt by the expense of electronically delivered documents. He asked that perhaps the guidelines on research should include a statement that grants could cover the cost of electronically delivered documents.

David Tinsley suggested that the Committee consider increasing the per diem allowance for conference participants from \$90 to \$120. John Finney noted this item has not seen any increase since 1991-2 and that the Committee would need an extra \$10,500 to meet this new cost. The Committee agreed the current rate was inadequate and the Budget Task Force should be approached this year for these funds.

Respectfully submitted,

David Smith