

Professional Standards Committee
Minutes for September 27, 1995

Committee Members:

Bill Beardsley	Barry Goldstein	Kenneth Rousslang *
Geoffrey Block	Dave Potts	Ted Taranovski
Bill Breitenbach	John Riegsecker	Lisa Wood (Chair)

* = Absent

At the outset it was agreed that any conversation to “leave the room” would preserve the anonymity of individual members. The committee also affirmed the principle that minutes would be encapsulatory rather than inclusive.

Each person shared his or her ideas about how to proceed with our central charge: “the examination of departmental standards and criteria for tenure and advancement, with particular attention to their consistency with the *Faculty Code*,” (Item 2a, PSC Minutes for 09-20-95). Most of the committee members were able to offer inconsistencies both in the *Code* itself and among various departments, and the need for clarity and fairness became a recurring theme throughout the meeting. The committee decided to start with the most important decision, tenure, and to consider tenure procedures before moving on to standards and criteria. What is working in the present system and where are the glitches? One member noted underlying tensions between the presumption that responsibility for demonstrating fitness for tenure rests with the candidate and procedures that imply a burden of proof for those who make assessments or recommendations that are negative.

At the next meeting the committee will discuss and evaluate tenure procedures and criteria and discuss ways to implement procedures and eventually standards and criteria that are clearly announced and fairly applied.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Geoffrey Block

Next Meeting:

Wednesday - October 4 - 3:00 P.M. - Shelmidine Room