

Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
15 April 2008; 2:00 pm, 1270 FAB

Present: K. Browne, S. Calkins (Administration Liaison), W. Crossland, D. DeGracia (Policy Committee Liaison), A. Goodman (AAUP/AFT Liaison), L. Keashly, P. Kernsmith, R. Parnell, A. Popadic, M. Sengstock

Absent with notice: M. Amjad, M. Brockmeyer, M. Hamre, G. Kuhn, B. Markman, K. Padmanabhan, E. Puscheck.

Absent: G. DeBlase

Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. *Approval of Minutes of 25 March 2008 meeting of the Faculty Affairs Committee*
Approved.
2. *Electronic SET report*
 - a. *Comments/corrections/additions to draft report*
Changes made to previously circulated copy were presented to committee. Approved as modified. Report will be forwarded to Policy Committee/Senate President.
3. *Final report for Senate*
 - a. *Circulate draft for approval*
Committee approved circulating draft via e-mail for comments in lieu of approval at a May meeting.
4. *Dean of Students David Strauss on Respect Campaign*

Dean Strauss told the committee that the Respect Campaign grew out of observations that students did not always treat faculty, each other or the campus with consideration. Lack of respect for others is often the basis of judicial processes on campus. The University of Michigan instituted a campaign to increase student awareness of respect for others and this approach was taken by the Dean of Students Office (DOSO). The Respect Campaign has a link from the DOSO webpage to a description of the campaign which includes taking a pledge to respect others and the campus itself, opportunities for workshops related to the pledge and FAQs. The DOSO has worked with student groups on campus (Sikh student group, Black Student Union) to sponsor events which promote respect. The DOSO has financed the printing of cards encapsulating the respect campaign goals to be handed out at campus events and pins to be worn to heighten awareness of the campaign. During orientation for the residence halls this fall, required special events will inform and sensitize new students to respect issues. Dean Strauss feels that the campaign has started but has not had enough impact as yet. He foresees continued work with student groups.

Prof. Popadic suggested working with departments that have large introductory level courses as a way of furthering the campaign among the faculty.

Prof. Keashly asked how the faculty could be more involved in the respect campaign and suggested that Dean Straus make a presentation to the Academic Senate. Dean Strauss remarked that he would like to see increased faculty involvement especially regarding issues of classroom behavior: the faculty need to be aware of steps for dealing with difficult students so as not to ignore behavioral problems until they get out of hand.

5. *Other business*

Prof. DeGracia reported that the Policy Committee may ask the standing committees of the Academic Senate to consider significant issues within their purview to be brought forward to the candidates for university president (e.g., for FAC, the reliance upon part-time faculty by the university).

There was a discussion about the retirement program, and about how difficult it is to decide whether an incentive program such as the school had offered influenced behavior of people thinking about retiring. Prof. DeGracia said there were 30 who took advantage of the early retirement program. Small number may not have been surprising considering the early deadline (30 March 2008) for signing up for the program.

Prof. Calkins said that recommendations forwarded by the FAC in their report on the Forum on Retirement had been received and were being considered by the Office of the Provost.

The Chair thanked the committee for its steadfast commitment and hard work completing several projects this year including: Finalization of the Faculty Tab in Pipeline, the forum on retirement and expansion of electronic SET.

6. *Suggestions for topics for the 2008-2009 FAC agenda.*

Follow-up usage of Faculty Tab

Follow-up retirees access to library online resources

Guidelines for handling classroom behavioral problems

Faculty Club

7. *Adjourn*

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.