

Faculty Affairs Committee

January 20, 2016

Present: renée hoogland, Ellen Tisdale, Poonam Arya, Linda Beale, John Vander Weg, Pramod Khosla, Frances Brockington, Krista Brumley, Abdulrahman Suleiman, Andrew Fribley.

Absent with notice: Abhijit Biswas, Jeffrey Rebudal, Rita Casey, Sokol Todi, Deborah Walker.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35am.

Approval of minutes of December 9, 2015

Correction under Graduate Faculty Status: "(rather than 'silly')" deleted.

Frances Brockington was added to list of members "absent with notice."

Faculty Mentoring

The draft memo for Policy was amended to include, on renée's suggestion, a recommendation for the installation of a small task force to discuss complexities of coverage, confidentiality, and similar issues, and to help set up, conduct, and analyze resulting data.

Krista is willing to work on the survey, and suggests her colleague David Merolla as a collaborator. One additional member of the task force should be appointed by the Provost.

JvdW indicates that there will be small research stipends available for the faculty on the task force.

The redrafted memo (attached) is going out to Policy in the week of January 25.

Graduate Faculty Status

The issue was resurrected after questions raised by members Barrett Watten and Jane Fitzgibbon during the Academic Senate meeting of January 13, 2016. FAC were asked to take action.

Linda: this is/was a contentious issue on Policy.

renée has been given to understand that the Provost is willing to open a window for departments to submit a request for different criteria.

Linda and renée will prepare a memo, to be signed by all members of FAC, for Policy. It is important that the information on this opportunity reaches not merely Deans and Chairs, but individual faculty as well.

Online Courses

Discussion of the slides of AAUP-CBC Summer Institute 2013. Pramod points to slide bottom right p.1: issues of governance, academic freedom, intellectual property; slide top left p.2: questions of workload, technical problems, as particularly problematical.

Linda notes that these issues were raised during the collective bargaining process.

The 2n cttee., chaired by Charlie Parrish, is in place but has not yet met.

Policy needs to urge the Chair and Co-Chair to call a meeting. Linda will communicate with Policy.

A long discussion follows about problems with online courses. Pramod provides evidence that some foreign students will not get scholarships for either online or hybrid forms of doctoral training in the US. renée mentions that GTA's are being disadvantaged too: they are not in a

position to refuse to teach online, have to put in a great deal of work, and are deprived of actual classroom experience. Most students she has talked to do not like online courses. Abdul adds that he does not like ANY form of online testing/quizzing, not even in hybrid formats.

We need to have a more general conversation about online teaching/learning. This will be started with Matt Ouellett, who has been invited to join us on March 9. Matt will be asked to provide data: is it possible to track student participation university-wide? JvdW will pull info on the actual number of online courses being offered.

CDC Information

JvdW is able to provide a list of awards/awardees 2010-215 (attached).

Clarifies that all the awards are listed on the Provost's website. Deans and Chairs are informed annually after the update has happened.

Krista suggests the website also provide data on previous awardees and committee members. Linda emphasizes that transparency is important. Also, from a PR standpoint, there should be more public information on/celebration of "our great faculty" winning all these awards, preferably through the President's office.

JvdW: the problem is, as always, who is going to do the work to make this happen?

TBC

Peer Evaluation of Teaching

Policy has asked us to look into this issue: what is the status of this across the university? Is the administration checking to ensure that units are complying? Should we consider abandoning this evaluation?

JvdW: roughly 40 out of 65 units have developed guidelines. Will check and dis/confirm.

Andrew suggests that it would be fun to see what people in other fields/departments actually do. JvdW says that anyone can visit any classroom at any time as is, provided that the instructor agrees to receive such visitors.

renée still does not see how any of the problems with the requirement have been resolved.

Linda stipulates that the whole thing was meant to help and support faculty.

Krista: her department has prepared guidelines for (but no yet implemented) Peer Review. It is strictly confidential. Not even a Chair will know what the evaluator and the évaluée (??) do or discuss, even if s/he will be aware of who is reviewing whom and when.

TBC

Reminders

The question of Open source Course materials will be further discussed with Matt Ouellett and Daren Hubbard during our meeting on March 9 (both invited and confirmed).

The meeting was adjourned at 12-noon.

Date for next meeting: **March 9, 10:30am** (in a different room: **FAB 1339**).

Respectfully submitted,

renée c. hoogland, Chair