

Faculty Affairs Committee

November 11, 2015

Present: renée hoogland, Abhijit Biswas, Poonam Arya, Ellen Tisdale, Sokol Todi, Krista Brumley, Abdulrahman Suleiman, Pramod Khosla, Daniel Golodner.

Absent with notice: John VanderWeg, Deborah Walker, Frances Brockington, Linda Beale, Andrew Fribley.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05.

Order of agenda items was changed in expectation of copies of minutes.

Graduate Faculty Status

Pramod: There is a Graduate School Faculty Roster. The idea to change the rules came from the Graduate Council. If a faculty member is denied graduate status, there is an appeal process. The numbers impacted by the recent change in the requirements is small.

Abe: If the cttee is simply counting numbers of publications, the process is silly. One book review in an obscure journal counts as much as an article in a peer-reviewed high-impact journal.

Sokol: Do we need this rule at all? If the denial range is so minimal, would we not be better off without this rule?

Pramod: There are no real issues with this rule. The Union is fine with it, and there is flexibility built in to assess different forms of achievement.

It appears that the rule plays out differently across departments (in some, faculty can no longer teach graduate courses) but that generally the denial of graduate status means that a faculty member is no longer allowed to direct dissertations.

Pramod will check up on the details with Graduate Directors and the Graduate School.

Topic tabled and to be further discussed.

Approval of minutes of October 30, 2015

SET administration Fall 2015

renée: No response from Lou Romano; no news from policy. Will write to Lou to find out what is happening.

Poonam: forms were in mailboxes today. Looks like they are being distributed early November then.

Abe: Why don't we just submit them late, and have them back later?

Ellen explains the E-value system in the SOM (see memo). This process is not in any way affected by the change in dates.

Sokol: in SOM it is all online, and in place, and it works. Recommends expansion across the University.

renée: Ellen's memo should be discussed with John VanderWeg, and might be helpful in further developing an alternative method of evaluation.

[Added Nov. 18: renée wrote to and learned from Lou Romano that the Provost did not want to change the new time-line. Lou would address the issue with the President later this month, and will report back. Krista informed renée that the deadline has been extended to December 2. There appears to be some confusion, or, indeed, a differentiation among departments. No forms to be seen as of 11/18 in the English Dept.]

Faculty Mentoring

Krista: mentions the NSF Advance website. Krista/JvdW should talk to somebody who can actually WRITE an effective survey. There are tricky issues: confidentiality; what exactly are the questions; how to assess/ deal with both formal and informal mentoring; etc. etc.

Sokol: the SOM guidelines for faculty mentoring are largely restricted to T&P cases and vary by department.

Cttee. agrees that it needs to discuss these concerns with JohnvdW. It should also be clear(er) what the needs are on the side of the administration.

Open Source Materials

Abdul presents his ideas (see memo): OS materials are cheaper than textbooks; there are no copyright issues; professors can tailor the "books" as they see fit. WSU faculty appear interested and other universities are positive in their experiences, esp. since some textbooks are super expensive (\$200).

Discussion of the proposal shows that discipline is key: this kind of textbook would be excellent in some, but not work at all in other disciplines, especially those in which even textbook chapters can be easily rented.

There is consensus that it would be impossible to impose any of this on faculty (in violation of academic freedom) and that different fields will have different responses.

Abdul will gather additional info, and discuss the possibilities across WSU with his project group. FAC members will look at the data before next meeting. Tabled and TBC.

New Business

Krista: where can one find a list of CDC awardees? Who currently serve on the cttee.?

renée: contact Don Haase.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.

Date for next meeting: **December 9, 2015, 10am.**

Respectfully submitted,

renée c. hoogland, Chair