

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Faculty Affairs Committee met at 3 pm on December 7, 2010 in 1270 FAB.

The following members were present: N. Datta; M. Horn, P. Jarosz, J. Mateika, R. Parnell, E. Puscheck, M. Sengstock. Others: S. Gupta, J. Lanza, P. Khosla.

The meeting was called to order at 3 pm by Chair, Mary Cay Sengstock. Minutes were approved as circulated.

Student Ethics Issue Raised by Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences: The committee resumed its discussion of the student ethics issue in the Nutrition and Food Science Department. Two members of the faculty from the department were present for the discussion.

The Chair reported that she had conveyed the Faculty Affairs Committee report on to the issue to the Policy Committee. However, she had received no direct response. The Policy Committee liaison to the Faculty Affairs Committee had informed her that it was likely the issue would be left in the hands of the Graduate Council. Hence there seems to be no inclination on the part of the administration or the Policy Committee to deal directly with the issue.

FAC members continued to have great concern about the issue. They were concerned, not only about the ethics issue, but also about the copyright issue, which the University attorneys' office has deemed to be totally within the rights of the student. FAC members continue to be concerned about the impact this decision could have on the copyrights of faculty and other graduate students who work on the same project. It is the administration's view that these issues should be resolved by faculty advising. However, members continue to believe that such advising is useless if there are no sanctions which can be applied, should some students choose not to follow the advice of their faculty mentors.

The committee instructed the Chair to develop a new report, including a stress on the copyright issue, and submit it to the Provost, with the request that he, as the Chief Academic Officer of the University, become involved in the issue. A copy should be sent to the Policy Committee as well. The Chair agreed to develop and forward such a report.

Mentoring Survey: Liz Puscheck reported on the current status of the mentoring survey. The committee was dismayed that the issue appeared on the Policy Committee agenda prematurely. The Committee had not been ready to go forward with the survey. As a result, Policy Committee had told the Committee to revise its plans and consult with Lyke Thompson from the Center for Urban Studies. Liz indicated that the survey was not intended as an extensive survey, on a very short request from faculty concerning what different departments are doing. We had been cooperating with the Provost's Office in this regard. Unfortunately, Kelley Skillin from the Provost's Office was unable to be present at this meeting.

The Chair asked Liz to contact Lyke Thompson to determine what his input might be. At the next meeting, Liz and Kelley can update the committee on the current status of the issue.

Political Science Review Committee: The Chair reported that Kelley Skillin had reported that the Provost's office had made changes to the report form to accommodate the problems raised by the Review Committee for the Political Science Department; the form also makes it clear that all questions are optional. The Committee agreed that this seemed to resolve the issue.

Clinical Track Faculty in Pharmacy and Allied Health:

Regina Parnell, a committee member from the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health, reported that her college was involved in discussions concerning the appropriate standards to be used for promotion and tenure for clinical faculty. She inquired as to how the Faculty Affairs Committee would be involved in this process. The Chair indicated that the tenure and promotion process was largely handled under the union contract. Academic Senate committees do not usually get involved. However, it would be possible to get advice from the committee if there were questions. Janine Lanza, the AAUP-AFT liaison, agreed with this perspective.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.