

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Faculty Affairs Committee met at 3 pm on March 22, 2011 in 1270 FAB.

The following members were present: M. Cooney, N. Datta, P. Jarosz, J. Mateika, E. Puscheck, M. Sengstock, J. Sondheimer. Liaisons: J. Lanza, S. Calkins. Others: S. Gupta, P. Khosla. K. Skillin.

The meeting was called to order at 3 pm by Chair, Mary Cay Sengstock. Minutes of meetings on Feb. 1, 2011, and Feb. 10, 2011, were approved as circulated.

Student Ethics Issue: The Graduate Council Proposal to handle the student ethics issue, entitled, “Wayne State University Guideline for Creating Faculty-Student Compacts,” had been received from former Graduate Dean Mark Wardell, and had been circulated to the Committee. Dean Wardell had been scheduled to discuss this document at a previous meeting, which had to be cancelled. Since Dr. Wardell is no longer the Dean of the Graduate School, it is possible that this document will no longer be active. However, members of the committee presented their views of the document to be conveyed to the administration, should the Graduate Council and/or the new dean decide to proceed with this document. The Chair agreed to summarize these comments for transmission to the administration. In particular, committee members continued to be concerned that the document focused solely on faculty advising, and did not deal with the specific issue which had been raised in the incident which occurred, namely, what could be done if a student deliberately chooses not to follow the guidelines.

Pramod Khosla, former Graduate Director from the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences, indicated that he had obtained a statement on academic and professional ethics distributed by the University of Michigan. He believed it was a better document and offered to send it to the committee. The Chair suggested this might be a preferable document. Committee members asked to review the document in order to make this determination. It was agreed that Pramod would forward the document to the Chair, who would transmit it to the committee. Committee members were asked to consider whether it would be useful to recommend it for use at Wayne State University.

Report on Mentoring Survey: Liz Puscheck reported that the mentoring survey has finally been approved and has been circulated to the faculty. It is intended for all faculty, not just those who are untenured. It has taken nearly two years to get the survey approved. The survey will be available for two weeks. Liz and Kelley Skillin were thanked for their work in finally getting this survey carried out.

Report on Proposal to Transfer Computer Science Department to COE: The Chair reported to the Committee that the Policy Committee had held a discussion on the proposed transfer of the

Department of Computer Science from CLAS to COE at its meeting on Monday, March 21, 2011. The discussion had focused on the administration's "response" to the Academic Senate's review of the proposal. The chairs of the four Academic Senate committees involved in developing the report were invited to attend the Policy Committee meeting.

The administration's response had been distributed to the committee. Committee members commented on the response. Ms. Sengstock indicated that the response really had not been responsive to any of the Senate's concerns. Rather, it was largely a critique of the Senate's concerns, suggesting that the Senate's concerns were not relevant. It was noted that the Provost and Policy Committee had asked the new Dean of the College of Engineering, Farshad Fotouhi, and the Acting Chair of the Department of Computer Science, Monica Brockmeyer, to prepare a new response by the end of the week. The Chair indicated that it is possible that this issue will be on the agenda for the Academic Senate to be held on March 6, 2011.

Administration "Retention Implementation Task Force Report": The administration established a task force which developed a report on retention. The administration has asked the Academic Senate committees to comment on the report, which had been circulated to members of the committee. Numerous comments were made. The Chair agreed to summarize these comments for transmission to the administration.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Approved as submitted at the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of April 19, 2011