

AY16-17 Annual Report: Faculty Standards Committee
May 2017

Membership: Jc Beall* (Chair), Sandra Bellini*, Jack Clausen*, Maria-Luz Fernandez*, Michael Fischl*, Gerald Gianutsos*, Elizabeth Jockusch*, Lewis Gordon*, Del Siegle*, Mei Wei*, Lloyd Blanchard, Preston Britner, Amy Fehr, Brandon Murray, Girish Punj, Sally Reis (ex-officio), Andrew Rogalski, Sarah Woulfin

*Indicates 2016/2017 University Senate member

Major Items of Discussion.

Emeritus Faculty Policy/Procedures: The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) asked FSC to consider a request from the President's Retirement Committee regarding language and procedures for retiring faculty to be granted emeritus status. After discussing the issues of time at rank (why five years at rank vs five years at UConn?), and titles subject to automatic emeritus status, the FSC advanced a motion to revise the by-laws concerning the relevant policies and procedures. Final wording of the motion and also the revised by-laws are available on the FSC-Minutes website.

Charge to examine SET practices: the FSC received a charge to examine current practices with SETs at UConn and other institutions. Working with the Provost's Office the FSC engaged the Assoc Vice Provost in OIRE to present current practices and alternative practices at comparable institutions. After many discussions along many lines the FSC did not recommend changes to the current SET; but the FSC repeated its official reminder that the SET is only one tool out of other tools for measuring teaching performance, and that Departments (and equivalents) should build a broad and viable basket of tools for building a teaching profile. Further detail on the FSC's recommendation is available at the FSC-Minutes website.

Charge to review a revision to the policy on Alleged Misconduct in Research: the FSC reviewed the target revisions with Dr Wesley Byerly, Associate Vice President for Research Compliance Representations. The FSC raised numerous questions about the revised policy, and Dr Byerly promised to take the questions back to the relevant parties working on the policy. Details of the discussion may be found at the FSC-Minutes website.

Other Items of Discussion.

- *Whether the FSC-hosted Annual PTR Forum should be modified from a University-wide event to a College/School-specific event only.*

Response. FSC endorsed the idea of shifting the University-wide FSC-hosted PTR Forum to every other year (including S17) and recommended that the Provost's Office instruct each School/College (including the Dean, Dept Heads, and School/College PTR Committee) to hold their own meetings with faculty on the

off years (starting in S18). FSC recognizes a genuine advantage to communicating the University and College/School standards to faculty, and responding to their questions on a regular basis.

- *Whether there is a uniform standard for undergraduate plagiarism across all academic units, and whether the policies concerning undergraduate plagiarism should be revised.*

Response. FSC encouraged Scholastic Standards to address the issue of departmental standards and practices, including education of both students and instructors. Rights and standards should be part of syllabi and reminders to students. In addition, FSC recommended that academic misconduct be included in the Provost's list of key policies to include in syllabi. (On 2.7.17 this was so added.) Further details on this are available at the FSC-Minutes website.

- *Whether enough is being done to ensure the absence of barriers for faculty promotion. (An issue raised by FSC Member Prof Lewis Gordon.)*

Response. FSC Member Prof Lewis Gordon presented some ideas for removing potential inequities in faculty promotion, particularly potential issues for certain minority groups. After far-reaching discussion the FSC unanimously reaffirmed the importance of consistency in promotion. As of May 2017 updates of standards (as well as procedures) for promotion to Associate Professor and Professor are already underway across the University. The FSC recommends that a review of those results be explored by the FSC in F17. Further details of FSC discussion of this item are available at the FSC-Minutes website.

Informational Items.

- Sponsored the annual PTR Forum on April 7. Special thanks to Cheryl Galli for logistical support and a report on the forum. Special thanks to Mark Boyer for his role in the forum this year.

Other Items

- Preston Britner needs to be explicitly highlighted for his extraordinary service to the FSC for AY15-16 and AY16-17. Professor Britner not only brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the FSC; he efficiently recorded all FSC minutes during the given periods.
- Cheryl Galli needs to be explicitly highlighted for her extraordinary service to the FSC for AY15-16 and AY16-17. Without Cheryl's efficient professionalism the FSC would not be able to carry out its work.