

Minutes of the Faculty Standards Committee, University Senate, 9/12/2016

In Attendance:

*Jc Beall, Chair, Philosophy

*Sandra Bellini, School of Nursing

*Maria-Luz Fernandez, CAHNR

*Michael Fischl, School of Law

*Elizabeth Jockusch, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

*Lewis Gordon, Philosophy

Preston Britner, Human Development & Family Studies

Brandon Murray, Office of the Provost

Sally Reis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs (*Ex Officio* Member)

Osundwa Wanjera, Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Sarah Woulfin, Neag School of Education

Introductions

Jc Beall called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

As a reminder, Faculty Standards Committee (FSC) meetings for 2016-2017 will take place on University Senate meeting Mondays, 1:30-3:30pm, Senate Conference Room (Hall Dorm Building, Ground Floor, Room 123). Those dates for the academic year are: September 12; October 3; November 7; December 5 (2016); February 6; March 6; April 3; May 1 (2017).

Senate Committee Representation from FSC

FSC must have representatives on two Senate committees. Please consider volunteering to serve as the rep to the Senate Growth and Development Committee. Maria-Luz Fernandez will serve as the FSC rep to the Senate Diversity Committee.

Graduate Faculty Status

Jc, who is also chairing the relevant committee at the Graduate School, reported to FSC regarding the Graduate School's process and standards for the appointment and renewal of appointments to the Graduate Faculty. Dean Holsinger, in response to a charge from Provost Choi, has convened a committee to examine Graduate Faculty status and processes and procedures (with a draft set of recommendations due in January 2017).

Questions being addressed:

- Should all tenure-track hires be appointed (automatically and immediately) to the Graduate Faculty? [To date, discussions have suggested deference to the department/program.]
- Once appointed, what should be the duration of appointment (e.g., 7 years, then reappointment based on contribution, sensitive to discipline expectations)?
- If standing is lost, how might status be regained?

The committee welcomes input, and FSC raised some ideas about standards and procedures that Jc will take back to that committee.

Emeritus Faculty 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.

Brandon Murray provided background as to the nature of the request from the Retirement Committee if required. Preston Britner reviewed the recent history of changes approved by the Board of Trustees, from 2005 and 2011 *ad hoc* committees, to FSC and Health Center discussions in 2013, leading to the current procedures (approved by the BOT in 2013).

We discussed the issues of time at rank (why five years at rank vs. five years at UConn?), rank (why only Professor [and equivalent] and not Associate Professor?), possible other honorific titles, and the workload of the Retirement Committee.

FSC unanimously recommended that the SEC form a task force to examine the issue.

New Business

Lewis Gordon raised a question about the standards for promotion to Professor at UConn, contrasting the University with other institutions. After some discussion separating "threshold" and "level" issues, Lewis may bring additional ideas back to FSC for further review.

Sally Reis briefed FSC on the upcoming NEASC accreditation visit.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Preston Britner.