

Faculty Standards Meeting Minutes: September 12, 2022

Present: Dan Burkey (Chair), Lisa Holle, George McManus, Betsy McCoach, Masha Gordina, Valarie Artigas, Elizabeth Jockusch, Elaine Lee, Jeffrey Shoulson, Bede Agocha, Martina Rosenberg

Absent: Doug Degges (class conflict), Vicky Magley (sabbatical)

Meeting called to order 2:03 PM via WebEx.

1. Introductions: New and returning members took a moment to introduce themselves to the rest of the committee.

2. Review of the Committee Charge: The committee reviewed the standing charge to the FSC and the scope of items it generally considers.

3. Review of Old Business and Annual Report:

Lisa Holle provided an overview of several of the items considered by FSC last academic year. The PTR information sessions were held in the spring semester for both tenure-track and CIRE faculty and now will be annual.

The suggestions from the FSC on the BoT Distinguished Professor process was shared with AVP Michael Bradford. Lisa Holle will reach out to him to get any feedback on these suggestions prior to this year's BoT selection process starting.

The FSC also provided a working document to Provost Lejuez prior to his departure on another classification of distinguished professor, the Nutmeg Professorship, for consideration. This was not acted on prior to Provost Lejuez's departure and has not been taken up by Interim Provost Anne D'Alleva at this time. Lisa Holle provided the documentation to Senior Vice Provost Jeffrey Shoulson to take back to Provost D'Alleva for consideration.

Elizabeth Jockusch noted that the Nutmeg Professorship should have real resources associated with it to avoid it being "just another award", and SVP Shoulson noted that resources were uncertain at this time, partially due to uncertainties associated with the costs of implementing the new proposed General Education Curriculum.

Lisa Holle noted that the Senate approved the updated SET interpretation guidelines at the final senate meeting of the Spring 2022 semester, and SVP Shoulson confirmed that the Provost's Task Force on SET+ has started, members have been identified, and meetings are being scheduled. The anticipated timeline is a report by the end of AY 22/23.

4. New Business

An email from Physics Chair Barry Wells was discussed that reopened issues associated with Emeritus faculty status and resources. It was discussed that the current guideline of “email access and library access only” while correct, was possibly not appropriately conveyed to the faculty member, and perhaps did not reflect the level of engagement that the university wants to extend to emeritus faculty.

Several committee members (Burkey, Jockush, McCoach, Agocha, McManus, Gordina) presented ideas that were relevant, including perhaps different categories of emeritus faculty that reflect the level of engagement they continue to have (i.e. truly retired vs. teaching an occasional class vs. actively mentoring graduate students and engaging in funded research). These different levels of activity reflect different resource and space commitments that will likely be different in different schools, colleges, and departments. It was also noted that agreements for resources extended to emeritus faculty should be in writing and subject to periodic review in light of changing resource availability over time.

Based on this discussion, Lisa Holle and George McManus agreed to form a working group to assemble additional guidance for Department Heads that they could use when discussing emeritus status with faculty considering retirement that can supplement the base university “email and library access” position.

Dan Burkey also noted that CIRE Faculty rights and privileges would also be a topic of interest this year. George McManus noted that this topic, specifically sabbatical or professional development leave for CIRE faculty, had been discussed in FSC when he was chair. Lisa Holle noted that it was also part of the discussion when Preston Britner was chair, and a recommendation was sent to the Senate in Spring 2020, but was not discussed due to the urgency of the COVID response.

Dan Burkey has been appointed to a Provost/AAUP working group on this topic which will meet for the first time on 9/14, and will report back to FSC on this at the next meeting.

In terms of other new business, Elizabeth Jockusch raised questions about the implementation of some of the new AAUP contract items, specifically the Workload Guidelines and Annual Satisfactory Performance reviews by heads. Dan Burkey will consult with the SEC on this topic. SVP Shoulson indicated that the Provost’s office was also still evaluating these items.

Related to this, Betsy McCoach also had questions regarding the new merit procedures, including transparency at the department, dean, and provost levels.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 3 via WebEx. Motion to adjourn was made by Masha Gordina and seconded by Lisa Holle. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 PM.