

Faculty Senate Ethics and Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
February 9, 2015

Members Present: Gail Houston, Teddy Warner, Martha Faulkner, Ann Murphy, Luis Campos and David Cavazos

Members Absent: Wayne Thorpe

Staff Present: Brianne Santos, Administrative Assistant 3.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Elections

Interim Chair Gail Houston self-nominated with a second. The nomination was approved by unanimous vote by the Committee.

Ethics Hearing

A request has arisen by a faculty member for a faculty peer hearing. The faculty peer hearing was created to be a step prior to the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee (AF&T), and is stated in Faculty Handbook, Policy C07 Section 11.

This faculty peer hearing will be the first of its kind. Two representatives from the Committee are required to hear the case along with a representative chosen by the Provost/Chancellor.

Chair Gail Houston volunteered to be a representative because, as Committee Chair, the position should understand the process. A motion was made for Chair Houston to be named as a representative. The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous committee vote.

Because the case comes from the Health Sciences Center the committee decided the second representative should be from North Campus. Committee Member Teddy Warner volunteered. A motion was made for Committee Member Teddy Warner to be named as a representative. The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous Committee vote.

The two representatives will be trained by University Counsel. It was suggested to rotate Committee members to be a part of the hearing committee. The Committee would all like to be involved in the training.

Charge

Chair Houston spoke with Faculty Senate President Pamela Pyle regarding the goal for the Committee. President Pyle would like the Committee to be more active throughout the year taking a more proactive role.

The Committee noted there was no "advisory" capacity mentioned within the current charge. The Office of the University Secretary(OUS) created a spreadsheet stating Ethics Committee charges from universities around the country. Chair Houston tasked the Committee to review the charges and come up with specific ideas of what this Committee should be charged to do including ethical and professional conduct.

Associate Vice Provost Virginia Sharff and Faculty Senate President Pamela Pyle will be invited to the next meeting to participate in the discussion of drafting the new charge.

Previous Business

The committee discussed in depth the charge it was given in fall 2014 by Associate Vice Provost Virginia Scharff regarding spousal hiring and other issues associated with spousal hiring and whether to continue work on this issue. We decided to ask Pyle and Scharff to attend our next meeting so as to get more clarity on this issue and to (self) determine whether we should continue working on this issue. Concerns

were expressed by the committee members who were on the committee in fall 2014 that this issue was left hanging and may not have been handled by the previous chair. This item was tabled for further discussion at the next meetings.

Meetings and Agenda

Currently the Committee convenes on as-needed basis. To be more proactive the Committee decided to set monthly meetings. The Committee will meet the third Wednesday of the month for March (3/18) and April (4/15) of 2015. Because the semester ends earlier this year, the May meeting will be held on the first Wednesday (5/6). The meeting will last an hour and a half from 3 to 4:30pm. OUS will find a location for the meetings. A request was made to have full committee support from the OUS office.

The Committee would also like to participate in the agenda setting process. OUS will send out a request via email for agenda items two weeks prior to the meeting. The agenda will be set and distributed a week prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.