

## Faculty Senate Policy Committee

Meeting Notes

April 7, 2021

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Karen Patterson (Co-Chair), Lee Brown (Co-Chair), Robert Christenson, Min Young Ro, Karen Armitage, Ronda Brulotte, Kelley Holladay

**Ex-Officio Present:** Barbara Rodriguez, Senior Vice Provost, Office of the Provost Amy Levi, Vice Chancellor, Brandon Toensing, Associate University Counsel, University Counsel Office HSC, Nancy Middlebrook, University Secretary, Office of the University Secretary, and Vivian Valencia, University Secretary Emerita, Office of the University Secretary

**Members Absent:** Matthew Hofer, Monika Nitsche

**Ex-Officio Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** Felisha Martinez, Administrative Coordinator, Office of the University Secretary, Carol Stephens, Professional Consultant, Office of the Secretary

**Guest Present:** Pamela Cheek, Amie Chavez-Aguilar, Jennifer Lau

1. The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate (FS) Policy Committee was called to order at 3:35 PM on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 via zoom by Co-Chairs, Karen Patterson and Lee Brown.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Approved by unanimous decision.
3. **Meeting Notes.** Notes from February 2, 2021 and March 3, 2021 approved by unanimous.
4. **Updates:**  
**C07 “Faculty Misconduct and Progressive Discipline Policy”-** The policy is currently being reviewed by the Regents. The Policy Committee will be meeting with Dr. Finnie Coleman regarding potential changes and to determine the next steps if changes need to be made.

**A67 “Military Leave”-** This policy has been approved by the Faculty Senate and will be updated on the website soon.

**Consensual Relationships Taskforce-** This taskforce is making progress and hope to present to the committee before the end of the year. It is expected to have a draft revision to the current UAP policy and a draft new Faculty Handbook policy. The goal is to have UAP,

and the Faculty Handbook policy be parallel. The taskforce is almost done with their work in revising and drafting the policies. The draft Faculty Handbook policy will be sent to the Operations Committee and the Policy Committee when ready. The taskforce is hoping to build consensus during the comment period.

## **5. Action Items:**

**A61.2 “Branch Community Colleges Council”-** A new proposed policy forming a Branch Community College Council of the Faculty Senate was presented. Communication between branch campuses and main campus has been positive and dialogue is encouraged; however, branch campuses want this to continue in an official capacity as administrations changes in the future. Each branch has their own needs and voices may not be heard by main campus. Branch campuses are not currently represented by main campus. By trying to make this change systemic, it benefits each of the branch campuses. It was recognized that HSC has its own council, and that council has been valuable in representing the unique needs of HSC. This new council could benefit branch campuses in a similar way. If the Policy Committee approves, it will be sent to Operations Committee for approval. After that approval, it will go out for campus comment. From there, Operations Committee approves, and it may go out for a second campus comment. Once comments are received, they will be reviewed and addressed as appropriate by the Policy Committee and then the Operations Committee. The draft policy will be sent for approval to the Faculty Senate. Approved by unanimous decision.

**A60 “Faculty Senate Bylaw”-** This bylaw change adds the Branch Campus Council. With this change, there will be a total of six councils. Approved by unanimous decision.

**A61.2 “Faculty Senate Curricula Committee (FSCC)”-** A discussion was held prior to this Policy Committee with Pamela Cheek and Christine Deluca regarding the FSCC wording of interdisciplinary studies. The new language addresses this. The new language states the FSCC can recommend a means of a solution rather than create a solution itself. The process is to communicate with chairs and deans of colleges for support and insight therefore the conflict is not brought to the committee itself. If there is not a resolution, they can bring in the Office of Assessment and other experts from other areas specific to the issue. The final recommendation is to go to Academic Affairs for mediation from the FSCC. This will now be sent to the Operations Committee and once approved will be posted. Approved as amended.

## **6. Discussion Items:**

**D175 and D176 Student Grievance Policies-** The current due process is there is an opportunity for appeal to the chancellor after appeal to the dean. This slows the process. Example: HSC is working to resolve a Title IX issue from 3 years ago because this process is so slow. What used to apply to just the School of Medicine is now across HSC in its entirety. HSC have tried other resolutions; however, they have found now it must be a policy change. It was reported that University Counsel has investigated this issue and agrees there is a disparity to be addressed. This would require involvement from upper leadership at HSC. D175 changes could be below the line changes, however D176 may be above the line changes and require campus comment if the EVP for HSC is removed from the appeal

process. Someone at HSC had mentioned concerns regarding this policy in the past. The committee may want to reach out to them for more information regarding their concerns. It was also suggested to reach out to the Office of Graduate Studies as well since changes affect graduate students. It was suggested the document be looked at before deletions or additions are made. It was also suggested getting input from all colleges/schools as they have a stake in it as well for D175. It could be good to start with discussions about D175 as changes are below the line.

**Copyright Issues-** There is a section on copyright that states a professor can keep their copyright, but what has evolved with online classes is institutions have told professors they need to sign over rights because there is so much computer involvement and resources being used that are owned by the institution. It was an online course, IT resources were used, this is university property and therefore copyright should be owned by the university. Many professors feel this infringes on their rights. This was meant to be for specific projects and not related to online courses. At what point does a professor lose their copyright? Some UNM professors have concerns. Changing intellectual property (IP) policy would include approval from the university President and Regents. It was suggested changes be made to copyright in faculty policy as a clarifying policy and not changing the IP policy itself. The current policy is not clearly defining situations and it is very general. It was decided a taskforce will be put together to investigate this policy further.

**C150 “Political Activities of UNM Faculty” and C240 “Leave of Absence Incident to Political Activity-** This discussion was tabled for the next Policy Committee meeting in May.

The FS Policy Committee meeting will hold a meeting on May 5, 2021 from 3:30PM-5:00PM via zoom.

**7. Adjourn: 5:10 PM**