

Faculty Senate Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2015

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

Members Present: Martha Muller (Chair), Melinda Tinkle (Vice-Chair), Kimberly Gauderman, Lee Brown, Charles Cunningham

Ex-Officio: Leslie Morrison, Vice-Chancellor, HSC, Vivian Valencia, University Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Kimberly Bell, Deputy University Counsel, University Counsel Office

Members Absent: Joseph Barbour, and Carol Parker Associate Provost, Office of the Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs

Staff Present: Candyce Torres, Office of the Secretary, Administrative Coordinator
Carol Stephens, Office of the Secretary, Professional Consultant

Guest Present: John Trotter, Vice Chancellor Emeritus, HSC

Meeting began at 3:30pm

1. The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate Policy Committee was called to order at 3:30PM on Wednesday March 4, 2015 in Scholes Hall, Room 101 with Chair, Martha Muller.

2. Discussion of revisions of A88:

Creation, Review, Reorganization and Termination of UNM Academic Units.

Discussion took place of what would happen if a faculty member doesn't return from a sabbatical leave within a year, as stated in the Faculty Handbook. A proposal was made that a faculty who stays past a 12 month sabbatical should pay back all 12 months of sabbatical leave pay. And, if a faculty member returns in just 6 months they should pay back a pro-rated amount. Professor Charles Cunningham agreed to look into the proposed changes to the sabbatical leave policy. Discussion ensued on the question of when approval is specifically required by the Regent's and when is it not, in regards to any kind of changes to UNM Academic Units. A proposal was made that states the Regent's should only be involved in the process if the Provost, or President, think it is necessary. For example, in the event of expensive or major changes. Citing an existing policy, formal Regent review is necessary when there is a "creation of colleges, schools, and branches" or "a creation or elimination of degree programs". Discussion continued on adding a "Termination Phase", A88, and how it would be applied. There was a

question on whether or not this was already included in Policy A91. In A91 there's a policy in place to review all Academic Units in order to verify if these units are still relevant, and, if not, the specific way that the termination of those programs would occur on an administrative level. There was discussion on the actual cost saving effects of eliminating programs, which seemed mixed if the academic infrastructure has already been put in place it only loses money to cut it as long as those programs are able to fill enough classes to keep retention up, and offer enough classes for a student to make academic progress. Discussion continued on the original "Termination Clause", with the committee deciding to completely strip any language referring to "Termination" from the A88 document. The document would then be renamed "A88: Creation, Review, and Reorganization of UNM Academic Units", to reflect the committee's decision.

3. UAP Policy 02035 "Political Activity":

The FS Policy Committee was asked by Faculty Senate President-Elect Pamela Pyle, to look into the recent Political Activity policy from the University Council Office. The FS Policy Committee agreed that this is a hard topic to discuss. That is because it is very difficult to define the varied and nuanced things that could be considered political activity and how to do so objectively. The FS Policy Committee discussed how the Federal Constitution Free Speech Amendment could affect or be effected by Faculty Political Activity Policy. The FS Policy Committee said that the issue is too broad and that the FS Policy Committee doesn't know enough of the specifics of the many laws involved to pass any proposals on this subject.

4. C190 "Lecture Annual and Promotion Reviews":

The FS Policy Committee discussed the ambiguity of the policy on whether or not a Faculty member needs to move up sequentially through the promotion tiers, or, if they could "jump" to another level through a promotion that skipped a step in the sequential order. FS Policy Committee said that is it possible to hire faculty for a position higher than the initial level for a new hire if that particular academic department deems that the hire is qualified to be hired at a higher level.