

Faculty Senate Policy Committee
Meeting Notes
October 3, 2024
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Ezra Depperman; Eve Espey; Michele Head; Subramanian Iyer; Karen Pattersen; Svetlana Poroseva

Members Absent: Meggan Gould; Katrin Schroeter

Ex-Officio Present: Nancy Middlebrook, University Secretary; Barbara Rodriguez, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Ex-Officio Absent: Akshay Sood, Interim HSC Vice President for Faculty Affairs

Staff Present: Candace Lounsbury, Operations Specialist, Office of University Secretary; Carol Stephens, Professional Consultant, Office of University Secretary, Vivian Valencia, University Secretary Emerita, Office of University Secretary

Guest present: Shirley Alexander, Director, HS Faculty Relations

Quorum was met and meeting called to order at 1:34 pm by Chair Eve Espey.

1. Approvals

Agenda approved as written. September notes were approved as amended.

2. Updates

C09 “Respectful Campus”

Updates to C09 were made in the *Faculty Handbook*. These were procedural changes that were approved by the Policy Committee to reflect the consolidation of the Ombuds Services office.

Policies Out for Comment

There are three policies currently out for comment. C215 “Paid Parental Leave” is out for its second comment period, which will run for 15 days. A53 “Development and Approval of Faculty Policies” and E120 “Effort Reporting” are out for their first comment period, which will run for 30 days. Comments on all three policies will be available for review at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Faculty Governance Website updates

Faculty Governance has a new website. Members are asked to verify that the information listed on the website is correct. Any necessary changes can be made by the Office of the University Secretary.

3. Discussion/Action Items

D75 “Classroom Conduct”

Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Pamela Cheek, joined the committee to discuss the proposed changes being made to D75, as many faculty and administrators have expressed

concern over how limited the policy is in scope. Currently, instructors may only drop students for unexcused absences. The inability to drop students for other reasons has led to a workaround, whereby an instructor will ask a student to leave class and count that as an unexcused absence. Language in the new policy strives to balance a student's right to educational access, due process, and instructor classroom management. While there are other policies and resources that address imminent threats, there is not enough guidance in current policy to help temper disruptive classroom behavior that does not reach that level.

The main question debated by the Policy Committee regarded the definition of "disruptive" as the proposed definition is broad. There are many different types of classes at the university, what is acceptable in one class may be disruptive in another. If the definition is narrowed too much, the risk is the inability to address behavior outside the definition that is still disruptive. Ultimately, the decision to decide specifics of what is considered disruptive behavior will be left to individual academic units.

The policy was voted to move forward as amended to the Operations Committee to go out for campus comment.

C140 "Extra Compensation"

A small change has been requested to this policy to comply with the CBA. The request is that part time faculty be eligible to receive extra compensation, and not limited to full time faculty. A definition for Special Teaching Component was also added to the policy. A vote was taken, and this policy was approved to go forward to the Operations Committee for approval for campus comment.

Request regarding a new Faculty Handbook policy on remote work

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Work Status Table

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.