Minutes

Faculty Handbook Committee

Friday, November 4, 2016

The Faculty Handbook Committee met on Friday, November 4, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 214 of Wingo Hall. The following members were present: Ben Rowley, Chair; Stephanie Vancerslice; Warren Readnour; Amber Wilson; Kaye McKinzie; Michael, Schaefer; Steve Runge; Diane Newton; Pat Cantrell; and Charles Watson.

Alicia Crow was introduced as Assistant to the Provost.

Minutes of the October 7, 2016, Meeting were approved with a revision to add associate professor to Paragraph IV following “terminal.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation to amend the Faculty Salary Review Committee by adding language indicating membership of the Provost’s designee as ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee.

The Committee moved to table action on Policy 709 until a future meeting.

The Committee engaged in discussion regarding the definition and qualification for the assistant professor position on the library faculty. Following the discussion, no action was taken.

The Committee reviewed documents submitted by the Honors College, but no clear resolution to the issue was evident. Dr. Rick Scott will be invited to the next meeting to provide additional information on the proposals. Item tabled.

Dr. Kaye McKinzie opened discussion on the proposition that would eventually link tenure and promotion from assistant to associate professor. She noted that departments across the university have varying criteria and policy that impact these potential actions. Dr. McKinzie opined that discussions within the Faculty Senate seem to favor linking. The Chair asked for a review of Handbook Pages 24-32, which describe these policies and noted that significant revision to the Handbook will be needed if such policy revision is adopted. S. Vanderslice moved to move forward with the development of language for the Handbook that would merge tenure and promotion actions. S. Runge seconded the motion. Motion was adopted on a 5 to 1 yes vote.

Dr. Kaye McKinzie also stated that the development of a 4th tenure track position did not have the support of the Faculty Senate at this time. Also, she observed that there appears to be little or no interest among the Senate to reconsider the “three year and out” program for visiting faculty.

Steve Runge observed that in some disciplines the handbook language of “terminal degree” in a tenure track program – such as accounting – needs further review because of the fact that so few exist and those that do exist have salary expectation beyond the grasp of the university.

Diane Newton stated that in Chapter 7 the membership of the Scholarship Committee failed to include student services. The Chair added this to the agenda for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes were reported by Dr. Charles Watson