

## *Faculty Senate Governance Council Annual Report*

*April 26, 2018*

Academic Year 2017-18

Council Members: Kathleen Delate, Jon Perkins, Steven Herrstadt, Ian Schneider, Sara Marcketti, Jan Boyles, Veronica Dark, Peter Martin, Jeffrey Kushkowski, Timothy McNicholl, Dawn Bratsch-Prince (Ex Officio)

The Governance Council met on September 18, 2017, October 24, 2017, January 26, 2018, February 16, 2018, March 9, 2018 and April 13, 2018. A record of the agenda and minutes from each meeting are available on the Iowa State University Faculty Senate Website.

Reports from the Committee on Committees (Peter Martin, Chair), Senate Documents Committee (Veronica Dark, Chair) and the College and Departmental Document Review Committee (Jeffrey Kushkowski, Chair) were provided routinely at each meeting.

1) Committee on Committees: Throughout the academic year, Peter Martin (President-Elect) kept the council up-to-date on committee openings and progress in filling the openings; the year started with no vacancies.

2) Senate Documents Committee: Throughout the year, Veronica Dark discussed with the council any handbook changes that would be forthcoming and any issues with the handbook that she thought we should discuss. She and the Senate Documents Committee drafted and assisted in reviewing language intended for Faculty Handbook revisions.

3) College and Departmental Document Review Committee: Jeffrey Kushkowski reported that the committee was underway with steps to review departmental and college governance documents. These steps include a revision of the CDDR procedures, a questionnaire to determine needs/ gaps by the units to effectively maintain their governance documents, a “best practices” document that includes required elements in governance documents and a check-list that serves as an index for locating elements in governance documents under review. These efforts were already in progress coming into fall, 2017.

Throughout the academic year, the Governance Council reviewed several policy modifications with potential impact for Faculty. These items were referred to the Governance Council for review of clarity and/or for evaluation of whether the changes contravened the current Faculty Handbook. These items included:

The Judiciary and Appeals Council proposed a revision to Faculty Handbook § 7.2.7.2 APA Hearing [S17-18]. The Governance Council found no conflict with the proposed changes in the FH; the Faculty Senate approved the changes.

The Governance Council reviewed the “Authorship Policy” proposed by the Policy Library Advisory Committee; no items appeared to contravene Faculty Handbook Policy in Faculty Handbook sections 7.2.2.3, 7.2.2.5.12, and 8.3.6.1 through 6.

The Governance Council reviewed proposed minor editing and formatting to sections of the FH regarding external (5.3.3.1.1) and internal (5.3.3.1.2) letters of peer evaluation. The requested changes were in response to questions from faculty and departments for whom this was not clear; non-substantive changes to 5.3.3.1.1 and 5.3.3.1.2 were voted on and approved by the Faculty Senate [FH 5.3.3 Department and Chair Responsibilities in the P&T Process [S17-8]].

Substantive changes to the Faculty Handbook policy on FH 7.2.2.2 Discrimination and Harassment [S17-28] have been approved by the Governance Council and FS Executive Board and will be an agenda item for the May 1, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting. Reasons for the proposed change include:

- University Counsel recommends that, instead of coming up with a new version of the D&H policy, the FH simply link to the university-wide policy in the Policy Library.
- There is confusion among faculty about how 7.2.2.2.2 Harassing Behavior (i.e., bullying) is different from legal discrimination and harassment.

In addition to policy changes to the Faculty Handbook, the Governance Council oversaw another successful election of senators and council chairs and appointments to the Athletic Council.

At the end of the spring semester, several matters remained incomplete. Ongoing attention by the Governance Council needs to be focused on the following items:

- At the April 24, 2018 Faculty Senate Executive Board meeting, FH 10.5 Policy for Dealing with Disruption in the Learning Environment [S17- 24] was referred to the Governance Council for vetting and adaptation to Faculty Handbook language.
- The Governance Council anticipates playing a role in changes to the Faculty Handbook as new term-faculty titles are developed and adopted by the Faculty Senate.

This report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Governance Council by:

Brett A. Sponseller, Chair of Governance Council, (College of Veterinary Medicine)