

Faculty Senate Governance Council Annual Report

April 29, 2019

Council Responsibilities (Faculty Senate Bylaws): Oversees the internal operations of the Faculty Senate; proposes for senate approval and implementation procedures for senate elections; and undertakes continuing review of the Faculty Handbook, the senate governance documents, and the council and committee structure. The council is responsible for the orientation of new faculty senators.

Academic Year 2018-19

Council Members: Brett Sponseller (Chair), Kathleen Delate, Jon Perkins, Steven Herrstadt, Ian Schneider, Elena Karpova, Natalie Royston, Brett Sponseller, Denise Vrchota, Jonathan Sturm, Jeffrey Kushkowski, Timothy McNicholl, Dawn Bratsch-Prince (Ex Officio)

The Governance Council met on September 24, 2018, October 29, 2018, November 26, 2018, February 7, 2019, March 13, 2019 and April 4, 2019. A record of the agenda and minutes from each meeting is available on the Iowa State University Faculty Senate Website.

Three standing committees report to the Governance Council:

Reports from the Committee on Committees (Jonathan Sturm, Chair), Senate Documents Committee (Denise Vrchota, Chair) and the College and Departmental Document Review Committee (Jeffrey Kushkowski, Chair) were provided routinely for each meeting.

- 1) Committee on Committees: Jonathan Sturm (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, Denise Vrchota 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. In addition to responsibilities associated with the Faculty Handbook, the committee also completed a revision of the Faculty Senate Procedures Manual. The Procedures Manual provides guidance in the execution of their senate duties to elected and appointed officers and council and committee chairs. The revision process was begun by the 2017 – 2018

Faculty Senate Committee on Documents and completed by the current committee. The revised document was sent to the Faculty Senate Council on Governance for review.

3) College and Departmental Document Review Committee: Jeffrey Kushkowski reported that the committee was well underway with review of departmental and college governance documents. Changes in departmental and college governance documents were needed to be assured that all units had current governance documents and that all units had language in place for policy changes associated with title changes for term faculty positions.

Charge to the Governance Council by President Peter Martin (2018-2019)

1. Participate in the implementation of term faculty reform
2. Discuss ways in which the percentage of term faculty/tenure and tenure track faculty is out of balance and suggest what can be done to change this
3. Develop recommendations and possibly a resolution about harassing and bullying behavior
4. Revisit the class disruption policy and provide recommendation to the Executive Board
5. Update the Senate Procedures Manual
6. Evaluate whether interdisciplinary research is rewarded in tenure and promotion guidelines
7. Evaluate whether the land-grant university mission is rewarded in tenure and promotion guidelines

The Governance Council had a full agenda for the 2018-2019 academic year. A summary of achievements due to committed service by members of the council follows:

- Participate in the implementation of term faculty reform

Aside from discussion, CDDR assisted with the transition to the new term faculty titles by providing guidance to departments and colleges for necessary revisions to their respective governance documents. CDDR is also reviewing these units' governance documents.

- Discuss ways in which the percentage of term faculty/tenure and tenure track faculty is out of balance and suggest what can be done to change this

Tim McNicholl, AAUP representative to the Governance Council, led a subcommittee investigating this issue. A final report has not been issued; however, term faculty are predicted to be teaching more than half of the student credit hours of the university within the next two years. Suggested approaches to rebalance the system include exploration of possible ways to transition term faculty into tenure-stream positions.

- Develop recommendations and possibly a resolution about harassing and bullying behavior

At least three approaches to addressing bullying were fully completed:

1. Faculty Handbook 7.2.2.3 [Bullying (Harassing) Behavior] was amended and approved by the Faculty Senate on 1/22/19.
2. Faculty Senate Resolution against Bullying and Intimidation on Campus, as S18-13, was approved 1/22/19. Discussions held during Governance Council meetings contributed to development of this resolution, authored by Jonathan Sturm.
3. GC Chair presented the Faculty Senate's activity regarding bullying to the 2019 ISU Chair's Conference on Bullying.

- Revisit the class disruption policy and provide recommendation to the Executive Board

The Governance Council worked with multiple offices and committees to finalize two documents:

- (1) Policy on Addressing Disruption in the Learning Environment
- (2) Procedures and Guidance for Addressing Disruptive Behavior

The revisions to the Faculty Handbook (FH 10.5: Policy for Dealing with Classroom Disruption) were approved by the Faculty Senate on April 23, 2019.

- Update the Senate Procedures Manual

The Procedures Manual provides guidance in the execution of their senate duties to elected and appointed officers and council and committee chairs. The revision process was begun by the 2017 – 2018 Faculty Senate Committee on Documents and completed by the current committee. The revised document was sent to the Faculty Senate Governance Council for review. All updates are current.

- Evaluate whether interdisciplinary research is rewarded in tenure and promotion guidelines

This topic is currently being addressed elsewhere.

- Evaluate whether the land-grant university mission is rewarded in tenure and promotion guidelines

This topic is currently being addressed elsewhere.

At the end of the spring semester, the Governance Council remained focused on aligning Faculty Handbook, Chapter 8, University Community Policies with the ISU Policy Library. Ongoing work will reference the Faculty Handbook to the link in the ISU Policy Library to allow policy changes outside of faculty control/purview to be updated as needed. This will keep the FH up-to-date via links to current policies. There are some aspects of FH chapter 8 that are not covered by the Policy Library; those will remain intact in the FH Chapter 8.

In addition, as charged at the beginning of the academic year, the Governance Council would like to continue to study ways in which the percentage of term faculty/tenure and tenure track faculty is out of balance and suggest what can be done to change this.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett A. Sponseller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and 'S'.

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