

Minutes, Faculty Senate Governance Council
107 LoM, March 5th, 2015 - 3:00pm to 4:00pm

Present: Dawn Bratsch-Prince, Veronica Dark, Carol Faber, Jack Girton, Rebecca Jackson, Jeff Kushkowski, Andrew Manu, Martha Selby (Chair), Brett Sponseller, Yoshi Suzuki, Rob Wallace

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm. Wallace will serve as recorder for meeting minutes. Agenda changes: Dark requested to add discussion of the PRS Task Force Report to New Business. Bratch-Prince also suggested to add several issues regarding P&T procedures for future discussion and inclusion of new/revised language in the FH for these concerns that were identified in the last P&T reviews discussed at Chairs Cabinet meeting of 13 February. Motion by Dark, second by Jackson, to approve modified agenda; motion approved unanimously. Upon review, motion by Dark, second by Sponseller to approve the GC minutes of 12 February, with additional summaries of the meetings of the Governance Council NTE Appointments subcommittee (Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Jan 13, Jan. 25); motion approved unanimously.

2. Reports from committees

a. **Committee on Committees:** Wallace requested that any members of committees or councils that are ending their term or otherwise are cycling-off to please inform him of the vacancy.

b. **Senate Documents Committee:** Dark noted that there are several sections of the FS procedures manual that are in need of revision; to be worked on in near future.

c. **College and Departmental Document Review Committee:** Kushkowski reported that the committee is completing review of college documents. The Committee is also establishing the department document review schedule for the next 5 years.

d. **Subcommittee on NTE appointment issues:** Selby reported that the finalized changes in the FH for NTE renewal/non-renewal notification time as submitted to the Executive Board was not forwarded to the Senate pending additional discussion of multi-year NTE contracts and other concerns raised by the EB. Need to resolve relationship for Senior Lecturers and policy on Lecturers with recurring contracts over long periods of time. Extended discussion continued on the original intent of creating the Senior Lecturer rank versus Lecturer.

3. Unfinished Business

a. **Handbook Changes:** Lecturer/Clinician renewal notice (FH 3.4.1.1 and 5.4.1.2) – Further discussion is needed to resolve notification for the one year contract situation, and how to encourage/improve the granting of multi-year contracts. Concerns were raised regarding fiscal commitment and long-term planning for lecturers usually re-hired annually over long time periods. It was noted that many of these problems are tied to budget uncertainty. This will require additional review and input from various groups; Selby will be meeting with Chairs Cabinet tomorrow and will discuss this with department chairs.

4. New Business

a. **NTER Report:** The Council discussed the situation of NTE Researchers and the current situation with ca. 13 current staff that fall under this designation. Concerns were raised that this classification for NTE individuals was set up originally for independent researchers with high-impact research programs, but currently the positions are populated with what are functionally ‘extended post-docs’ and similar staff. NTER faculty were also intended to be evaluated similar to

normal departmental hires, however the standard for evaluation and review was not enforced. Opinions were expressed to eliminate the NTER positions and investigate alternative titles for NTE research-focused staff. It is clear that there is likely opposition to removing this designation by some; others interpret the present situation with the NTER position is that it is an experiment that has failed and that it should be eliminated. It was further discussed that the GC should attempt to develop a FH revision that will result in a revised status for these kinds of appointments, and to generate language with specific requirements and provide for maintaining new standards. Alternative names or 'title-only' appointments might be investigated. Another concern that was raised is the inability of the NTER staff to be able to spend time writing grants and contracts for continued support when funding agencies require 100% effort on the funded project. Overall, the GC and FS need to either fix the current definition of NTER staff with better enforcement of the original concept of these position, or should eliminate the NTER designation altogether. Vigorous discussion continued on the NTER issue in various dynamic and interesting forms, and with different positions on the issue. A good time was had by all.

5. Wallace moved for adjournment, seconded by Sponseller. The motion passed without dissension. The meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 2nd, 3pm, 107 LOM

Minutes prepared by Rob Wallace.