

Minutes of Professional Standards Committee  
April 11, 2012

Present: Geoffrey Block, Alva Butcher (chair), Leon Grunberg, Jennifer Hastings, Andy Rex, Doug Sackman, and Seth Weinberger

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:01 am. The minutes of the March 21, March 28 and April 4 meetings were approved.

Chair Alva Butcher reported that she had sent an email to the Chair of the English department outlining the Professional Standards Committee's thinking on possible changes to the sections of the department's Evaluation Criteria document so as to clarify the responsibilities of instructors in evaluations. The email invited the Chair of English to respond if she wished but as of the time of this meeting she had not received a response.

The Committee then continued the discussion of the English department's evaluation document and approved specific wording that clarified the responsibilities of tenure-line faculty and full-time instructors in the evaluation process. The Chair asked the subcommittee of Geoffrey Block, Doug Sackman and Seth Weinberger to prepare a letter informing the English department of the changes to the document with a request that the department respond before the end of the semester. The subcommittee will circulate a draft of this letter to other members of the PSC before it is sent to the English department.

The Chair then asked for feedback on the "End-of-Academic-Year Report" she had drafted for presentation to the Senate. Minor changes were suggested and accepted.

Finally, the Committee resolved to try and dispose of the Charge from the Senate to review the Campus Policy regarding consensual sexual relationships as it is "applied with respect to supervisory responsibility and evaluation" before the end of this semester. The subcommittee tasked with this charge outlined several questions that might inform next week's discussions: Is the position of Chair supervisory? Does "consensual sexual relationships" refer to past as well as current relationships? Does the evaluation process imply "supervisory responsibility?" Should there be a responsibility placed on faculty to report "consensual sexual relationships?"

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am. The next meeting will be on April 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Grunberg