

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee, Friday March 14, 2008

Present: Bartanen, Bodine, Christoph, Edgoose, Fields, Goldstein, Tomlin

The meeting was called to order at 1PM

- 1) **Announcements:** The Code amendment allowing for streamlined evaluations for instructors received its first reading at the faculty meeting of March 11, 2008.
- 2) **Minutes of meeting of March 7** approved with minor amendments.
- 3) **Code Interpretation of Interpretations: “Partner” for “Spouse” or “Mate”**
The wording being considered for a formal interpretation of the language in existing Code interpretations was:
In accordance with current Code language, all references to “spouse” or “mate” in existing interpretations shall be understood to mean “partner.”
The PSC considered the implications of such a shift of language, with particular attention to the ambiguous meaning of “partner.”

It was decided that the most substantive Code interpretation to which this language change applies relates to issues of conflict of interest in faculty evaluations. Since there are other ways of addressing conflicts of interest in legal documents, the PSC wanted to consider addressing this issue through an examination of conflict of interest, rather than through this language change.

This issue was tabled for the next meeting.

- 4) **Early Tenure & Promotion Statement- New Information**
Last academic year the PSC interpreted a 1987 interpretation on page 45 of the Code addressing the expectations for early tenure and promotion (issued February 12, 2007). Specifically, the PSC suggested that the “exceptional achievement” standard mentioned in the earlier interpretation applied only to those who come up for tenure earlier than the date specified in their appointment letter. This later interpretation was held by the Senate for discussion and was never sent to the Board for approval.

Informal feedback from the Senate and Board was reported at this meeting. Some in both bodies were against setting a higher standard for early tenure. These arguments were often made in terms of recruitment. In addition, it was noted that multiple attempts at tenure before the sixth year might be allowed by the Code.

The Senate suggested that this issue should be addressed by a Code amendment, rather than by interpretation. The PSC agreed to revisit this issue at its next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Submitted respectfully,

Julian Edgoose