

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee

February 26, 2010

Present: Kris Bartanen, Rob Beezer, Geoffrey Block, Alva Butcher, Johanna L. Crane, Barry Goldstein, William Haltom (chair), Lisa Fortlouis Wood

Convened: The meeting convened at 2:08 p.m. in Wyatt 226

Minutes:

The committee approved the minutes of February 19, 2010.

The committee first turned to a request from Dean Kris Bartanen for PSC guidance. A faculty member expecting a child in June had asked if it would be possible not to schedule course evaluations for courses taught in Fall Semester 2010 and to delay evaluation. After some discussion the PSC concluded that if a faculty member is up for evaluation and is teaching courses in a semester that would normally be part of the evaluation file, then Instructor Evaluation Forms must be administered and the evaluation could not be delayed. However, under the Medical, Family Leave and Disability Policies, it would be possible to apply for parental leave in Fall 2010 which is unpaid and request a delay in evaluation.

The Professional Standards Committee then discussed details relating to its invitation from the Chair to seven FAC members who had served during the academic years 2007-08 and 2008-09. This invitation was in response to a charge from the Faculty Senate regarding issues raised in recent year-end Faculty Advancement Committee reports to the Faculty Senate. The meeting is scheduled from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5th in Wyatt 226. Three FAC members have responded that they will attend the meeting. One FAC member has responded to the PSC questions in writing and another FAC member will also respond in writing. The PSC has not yet heard from the other two FAC members. If the discussion cannot be completed within the planned time period, the FAC members can respond further in writing.

The PSC then turned to the Criteria for Evaluation, Tenure and Promotion for the Department of Politics and Government. The PSC discussion focused on the use of subcommittees to make classroom observations during evaluations. The subcommittee suggested that this not be allowed for a third year review since this is the only mandatory review by the entire department before tenure is considered in the sixth year. The discussion of this document will be continued in a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alva Wright Butcher