

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee
November 9, 2005

PRESENT: Kris Bartanen, Bill Breitenbach, Karl Fields, Grace Kirchner, Sarah Moore, John Riegsecker, Carolyn Weisz, Terry Beck (visitor), and Jim McCullough (visitor)

CALL TO ORDER: PSC Chair Weisz called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of November 2, 2005 were approved as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Weisz noted that the next faculty meeting was scheduled for 12/6/05 and asked whether she should request a second reading of the Code Amendment, Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7. PSC members said that a second reading would probably happen automatically, but indicated that she could confirm this with John Finney.

Weisz also noted that two members of the Diversity Committee would be meeting briefly with the PSC later in the hour and raised the possibility of sending a PSC representative to one of their meetings should the need arise.

Riegsecker announced that he had emailed Karin Sable to check on the status of the Environmental Studies evaluation guidelines.

Weisz circulated a draft of an email she plans to send to all department heads which asks about current practices involving first year faculty participation in colleague evaluations. PSC members approved the email, and Weisz will forward it to department heads. The PSC plans to consider this information when it returns to its discussion of the topic.

AGENDA ITEMS:

The Committee reviewed and approved the draft of the letter outlining the changes PSC recommends for the Biology Department's evaluation guidelines.

PSC then turned its attention to the evaluation guidelines submitted by the School of Business and Leadership; Fields and Moore will compose a letter summarizing these suggested changes and circulate to PSC members.

Beck and McCullough then joined the meeting and spoke to the PSC about the Diversity Committee's efforts to make the campus more welcoming to minority students, faculty, and staff. Noting that they would like to bolster faculty participation in diversity-related initiatives, they asked for the PSC's opinions about incorporating language into the Code that would recognize, or even require, faculty work on such efforts. Presently, such work is considered as one form of "service," and the Diversity Committee is exploring the possibility of giving greater weight to activities that promote a more diverse campus.

Weisz highlighted several places in the Code as well as the “Buff Document” (i.e., PSC’s yearly Faculty Evaluation Criteria and Procedures document) where such language could be inserted. Members of the PSC also talked about the advantages and disadvantages associated with making changes to the Faculty Code and Buff Document. Beck and McCullough said that they would take these ideas back to the Diversity Committee and contact Weisz if their committee felt that continued discussion with PSC members would be useful.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Moore