

Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee
November 30, 2005

Present: Kris Bartanen, Bill Breitenbach, Karl Fields, Grace Kirchner, Sarah Moore, John Riegsecker, Don Share, Carolyn Weisz (chair)

PSC Chair Weisz called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

The minutes of November 23, 2005, were approved as revised.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fields and Moore reported that they were ready to transmit to the School of Business and Leadership their subcommittee's suggestions regarding the School's revised statement of evaluation guidelines and procedures.

Weisz reported on the Faculty Senate's meeting of November 28, at which it discussed the charge to an ad hoc committee created to investigate the Professional Standards Committee's handling of grievances. This ad hoc committee, composed of Senators Bristow, Sousa, and Hanson, will seek information from members of the PSC and others that might lead to improvements in the grievance process at the University of Puget Sound. Breitenbach expressed a desire that members of the PSC might receive copies of a fourteen-page memorandum sent to some senators that has raised questions about the PSC's actions in handling grievances.

Weisz reported on the most recent chairs' meeting, at which one topic of discussion was the participation of first-year tenure-line faculty in evaluations. Some concerned chairs, especially those from smaller departments, wanted further clarification from the PSC and a policy that is consistent across the university. Weisz noted that clarification could be done through amending the Code, interpreting the Code, or revising the "buff document."

OLD BUSINESS

Because of the pressing need to prepare for the faculty's discussion of the PSC's proposed amendment of Code Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7, Weisz postponed the agenda item about the definition of tenure-line faculty. She noted, however, that the PSC should deal with this topic soon because it had originated as an inquiry from faculty.

The committee discussed several suggestions from Senators Buescher and Haltom about the wording of the PSC's proposed amendment of Code Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7. The most important of these suggestions concerned the confidentiality of hearings and the steps by which a hearing board finishes its business and transmits its decision, especially in cases when a hearing board judges that the Code has been violated and there are correctable deficiencies. The committee attempted to devise language that responded to these suggestions. Weisz agreed to report the committee's responses to the Faculty

Senate at its December 5 meeting in the hope that the Senate and the PSC could bring to the December 6 faculty meeting an agreed-upon package of amendments to the PSC's proposed amendment of Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7.

The committee concluded the meeting by approving a draft amendment to its proposed amendment of Chapter III, Sections 6 and 7. This draft amendment to the amendment would authorize changes in internal Code citations made necessary by the adoption of the main amendment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Breitenbach