Minutes of the Professional Standards Committee
November 4, 2010

Present: Kris Bartanen, Bill Beardsley, Alva Butcher, Julie Christoph, William Haltom (chair), Andy Rex, Michael Spivey, and Lisa Wood

The meeting convened at 3:01 p.m. in Wyatt 226.

Minutes:

The minutes of 21 October 2010 were approved.

The committee considered the report of the subcommittee (Beardsley, Christoph, Rex, and Spivey) regarding the Senate's Charge Eight: The PSC should improve the description in the Faculty Code of the grievance process when it occurs within a faculty evaluation [Chapter III, Section 4 f (1, 2)], and of the hearing board process [Chapter III, Section 6]. The subcommittee members reviewed for the full committee the main points of their response (previously provided in writing to all members of the committee): (1) The Code as written properly addresses such situations. (2) A point of emphasis should be added to the buff document's Departmental Evaluation Process section, so that evaluators would be aware of the consequences of raising ethical issues during the evaluation process.

Discussion ensued in which committee members considered possible scenarios in which Chapter 3 Section 4f might be invoked. The committee considered what might happen if a faculty member who raised an ethical issue during the course of an evaluation would not or could not initiate a grievance as required by the Code. The Committee discussed the role of the Dean in this kind of grievance process. The Committee agreed that two virtues of the current Code language are that charges of ethical violations (1) must be addressed in a timely manner and (2) must be made known to an evaluee within an evaluation process.

As the hour grew late, the committee was not agreed on whether to accept the subcommittee report without changes, or whether some modifications were in order. Committee members agreed to consider possible modifications and suggest them in the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Rex