

Professional Standards Committee
Minutes
April 2, 1996

Members present: Beardsley, Block, Goldstein, Potts, Riegsecker, Rousslang, Taranovski, L. Wood

The meeting was called to order by Wood at 9:07 a.m.

Wood and other committee members who were present at the April 1, 1996 meeting of the Faculty Senate informed the rest of the committee of the Senate discussion pertaining to the function and jurisdiction of the Professional Standards Committee, which raised larger issues of the Faculty Code and possibility or desirability of its revision. A copy of the ad hoc Senate committee report on PSC will be provided to all committee members.

The committee agreed that Riegsecker will prepare the material regarding changes in the code language pertaining to the term "career faculty" that can be sent to the Senate for its deliberation and submission to the full faculty for final action.

Block reported on his analysis of departmental documents establishing departmental criteria and standards for evaluation. There are clear discrepancies between various departments, and different departments apparently differently interpret the language of the code. The committee agreed that our function is to serve as an information-gathering instance and instructed Block to proceed with tabulating such differences focusing on the standards regarding teaching excellence and professional growth. The larger policy issue of whether such differences, if and when documented, are to be viewed as normal and necessary or to be avoided whenever possible must, in the final account, be decided upon by the faculty as a whole.

Finally, the committee continued its discussion of departmental evaluation procedures. The Taranovski draft is to be revised in light of previous discussion and additional suggestions and to be reviewed by the committee. Once a general procedure is agreed upon, it will then be determined how best to integrate it with the existing Faculty Code provisions, and how to submit the PSC recommendations to the faculty for final action.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Taranovski