

Faculty Affairs Policy Committee (FAPC) Report Given to the University Senate on 25 October 2010 Submitted by Craig Turner

At the 1 Oct 2010 meeting,

1. calibration of the level of detail in the minutes by secretary with committee members.
The committee secretary requested guidance from committee members regarding their preferences in the level of detail present in committee minutes. After some discussion, the general consensus was to continue providing the level of detail, format, and style present in the 3 Sep 2010 minutes that were circulated to the committee.
2. update on “Academic Year Faculty Availability in the Summer.”
Alex Blazer will attend a meeting of the University Chairs Council on Wednesday 27 October 2010 to present the summary survey information on summer service activities for academic year faculty and encourage chairs to have conversations at the department/unit level as appropriate and necessary.
3. update on “Post-Tenure Review”
The work group is populated with at least one member from each academic unit (colleges, library). Members of the workgroup include Martha Colvin (CoHS), Nancy Davis Bray (Library), Lee Digiovanni (CoE), Ken Farr (CoB), Mike Rose (CoAS), Craig Turner (CoAS). Organizational meeting of this work group 4 October 2010.
4. information on Student Opinion Surveys concern
A concern, emerging from an email sent to the committee chair, regarding discrepancies in the computations of average ratings for the on-line archive of the paper-and-pencil student opinion surveys was shared as an information item. In the email the committee was asked to consider ensuring that the communication of these discrepancies was consistent across the academic units of the university. Appropriate campus officials are aware of these discrepancies and corrections are in progress and were expected to be completed by 3 Oct 2010. As the Provost had extended regrets for this meeting, the committee agreed to add this item to the tentative agenda for the 5 Nov 2010 committee meeting and request an informational update on this matter from the Provost at that meeting. Committee actions (if any) on this matter will be informed by this update from the Provost.
5. update from work group on “Faculty Evaluation, Triggering Reviews of Department Chairs”
This issue arose from a concern about the current faculty evaluation process and an interest in exploring the options available to faculty to inform the evaluation of a department chair or immediate supervisor. Due to the recent university-wide reconsideration of the faculty evaluation process at the department level, the work group decided to put on hold any further investigation of faculty evaluations. The conversation on triggered reviews of department chairs concluded that a mechanism for faculty to inform a department chair review is desirable. The committee asked the work group to review the existing mechanism, called the Part IV Academic Administrator Evaluation Form, and provide an update and its recommendations (if any) at the next committee meeting.
6. new business: summer pay for faculty – concern
A concern was voiced to indicate that for some faculty, summer tax withholdings were distorted (extra large tax withholdings) with combined pay for teaching multiple sections. The committee chair was charged by the committee to obtain additional information from appropriate individuals on campus and to share this concern at the joint meeting of the Standing Committee Chairs with the Executive Committee on 8 October 2010 and then provide the committee an update at its 5 November 2010 meeting.

Tentative Agenda for 5 Nov 2010 meeting (12:30-1:45 in Arts & Sciences 1-15)

1. Faculty Evaluation, Triggering Reviews of Department Chairs (work group update)
2. Post-Tenure Review (work group update)
3. Informational Updates (Student Opinion Surveys, Faculty Availability, Tax Withholdings)