University Of Washington
Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., May 14, 2013
26 Gerberding Hall

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
2. Review of the Minutes from April 30th
3. Discussion of Class A Legislation on Academic Freedom at SEC
4. Report on Membership
5. To-Do-List for Next Academic Year
6. Adjourn

1) Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by acting Chair Steve Buck at 9:00 a.m.

2) Review of Minutes from April 30th
Minutes from April 30th were approved as written.

3) Discussion of Class A Legislation on Academic Freedom at SEC
Buck requested that the result of FCFA’s recent email vote be reflected in the minutes of today’s FCFA meeting:

FCFA members voted by email on May 3, 2013 to approve Class A Legislation to amend the Faculty Code Section 24-33 on Academic Freedom

Killien reported on the status of the Class A legislation on academic freedom. At the 5/8/13 meeting of the Senate Executive Committee, a motion was approved to postpone consideration of the legislation to allow the administration additional time to consider the legislation and work with faculty representing SEC on any concerns that might arise. A work group including Jim Gregory, Gail Stygall, and Christoph Giebel will work with Jack Johnson, President Young’s chief of staff, to consider an amended version to be presented at the next SEC meeting scheduled for October 7th. Killien mentioned that President Young was supportive in principle and gave some examples of how he had defended the academic freedom of faculty in his past positions.

Council members asked why SEC decided to create a special task force instead of having a vote at SEC or having the legislation sent back to FCFA. Killien explained that the legislation has already been passed by FCFA and is now in the hands of SEC for them to deal with. The SEC wanted to identify a small group who were in a position to negotiate language with the administration. Vaughn expressed her concern that the Attorney General’s (AG) office will weigh in on the administration’s side and would not be transparent to FCFA. She recommended consulting with a colleague in the law school who is an expert on the First Amendment. Killien indicated her belief that there is not a major pushback; the only issue was that the legislation was brought to SEC with a limited time for prior review and discussion. Further, Killien explained the presidential designee was not present when the academic freedom legislation was discussed at FCFA. Finally, next academic year there will be new SEC and Senate membership. All these factors were reasons why the legislation was postponed by SEC.
4) Reports on Membership
Killien announced that Watts has been nominated to chair FCFA next academic year. Additionally, the meetings will be moved to 9:30am to solve problems with quorum issues. Three other faculty members have agreed to serve on FCFA if elected by the Senate. The goal of selecting members for each council is to ensure broad representation across campus. The Secretary’s Office conducted a survey of interested faculty members and received a high number of responses. Additionally, Killien received input from the college councils as well as the administration. Selection for councils is based on members who are leaving, members’ rank, and distribution across schools and colleges. She believes that the intent of shared governance requires membership to represent the possible diversity of viewpoints.

5) To-Do-List for Next Academic Year
Killien discussed some of the issues that she expects FCFA will deal with next year.

New Salary Policy
Killien explained that there has been a working group meeting all year between faculty and the administration to develop a different salary system based on a tiered “step system”. The new proposal would require a change to the faculty code.

Simplification of the RCEP (Reorganization, Consolidation, and Elimination of Programs) Process
This is an issue where historical wisdom and institutional memory would be helpful on the council. The current process is so onerous that people are not following it.

Electronic Communications
The faculty code needs to be adjusted to reflect advances in electronic communications.

Adjudications
Buck asked if there is any current activity aimed at clarification or revision of adjudication practices. Killien said that nothing is active right now, but she anticipates discussions with the new ombud.

Killien asked FCFA their opinion on term limits for the chair of the adjudication panel. Discussion ensued about participation, succession planning, role of the chair and who could serve in the future. Having expertise in the legal field is helpful and it would be nice to have someone dedicate multiple years to this role.

Voting Rights for Faculty
Killien indicated there may be a request to re-consider the current status of voting rights for part-time lecturers, emeritus faculty, and faculty on leave.

Faculty Status for Librarians
Henchy spoke about recent discussions on giving librarians faculty status.

6) Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned by Buck at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes by Grayson Court, Faculty Council Support Analyst. gcourt@uw.edu

Present: Faculty: Buck (acting Chair), O’Brien, Vaughn, Huber, Watts
Ex-Officio Reps: Henchy, Rees
Guests: Killien

Absent: Faculty: Stygall (Chair), Landis, Johnson
Ex-Officio Reps: Sukol, Mc Nerney
President’s Designee: Cameron