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Utah State University

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Minutes

April 11, 2013

Meeting convened at 10:00 in room 152, Center for Persons with Disabilities. In attendance: Bryce Fifield (Chair), Kathy Chudoba, Robert Spall, Kathy Riggs, John Stevens

Minutes from March 21, 2013 were approved as prepared.

Old Business

The committee reviewed the progress of one grievance that is currently in process. The preliminary hearing occurred on March 22, 2013. Craig Petersen is chairing the hearing panel which will convene on April 24, 2013. The committee discussed the general issues of the grievance and the protocols that will be observed during the upcoming panel. Professor Petersen who is chairing the panel has provided a summary document that will help structure the hearing and the ensuing discussion of the panel.

The committee briefly reviewed the progress of the proposed code changes being pursued by two taskforces of the Faculty Senate. No new developments have been announced about the progress of recommendations.

The committee briefly discussed the ongoing development of the Hearing Procedures Guidebook and generally agreed that work should continue on those resources when the new AFT committee is constituted in the Fall Semester.

New Business

The chair informed the committee about a brief email exchange he had with a faculty member who is considering filing a grievance because of a change in her role statement that she did not agree with. The committee briefly discussed the provisions of the Faculty Code for such situations. The faculty member has 120 days to determine whether or not to file a grievance.

Elections were held to name a new chair and vice-chair for the AFT committee for the coming year. Bryce Fifield was re-elected chair and Kathy Chudoba was elected vice-chair.

The committee discussed the need to have a means of contacting committee members during the summer when they are not typically on regular contract. Last year there were two situations that required AFT action in putting together hearing panels to respond to Faculty Sanctions being initiated by the university administration. Bryce will maintain an email list of AFT members who can be "on call" to respond to such situations if necessary.

The committee extends its appreciation to our colleagues who have filled their terms on the AFT Committee. We look forward to working with new members in the coming Fall Semester.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce Fifield (Chair)