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## Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee Minutes, March 21, 2013

Utah State University

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Utah State University  
Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Minutes

March 21, 2013

Meeting convened at 10:00 in room 152, Center for Persons with Disabilities. In attendance: Bryce Fifield (Chair), Kathy Chudoba, Robert Spall, Maria Spicer-Escalante, Britt Fagerheim, Kathy Riggs, Foster Agblevor, John Stevens

Minutes from February 7, 2013 were approved as prepared.

Old Business

The committee reviewed the progress of one grievance that is currently in process. The preliminary hearing will occur on March 22, 2013. Craig Petersen is chairing the hearing panel.

The committee briefly reviewed ideas about the contents of the Hearing Procedures Guidebook. Larry Smith is reviewing the timelines that Grant Cardon has prepared and we hope to have his comments by the time we meet next month.

The committee reviewed the progress of the code changes to sections 406 and the Post Tenure Review policies. Thanks to the committee members who helped frame a response for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Comments were sent back to the two task forces with recommendations for modifications. The AFT Committee's recommendations were included with feedback from other Faculty Senate committees and work groups.

New Business

The committee had a discussion about how to respond to inquiries from fellow faculty members about whether or not various complaints were 'grievable'. These situations put some committee members in an awkward situation. On the one hand, they want to be sympathetic and encouraging to their fellow faculty members, on the other hand they don't want to prejudice a case or offer inaccurate advice. The committee reviewed some very general rules of thumb about how to deal with potential conflicts of interest when these situations arise within their own departments or colleges.

A brief discussion was held about the business for next meeting which includes electing new officer. Bryce will review the faculty code regarding the tenure of officers on the AFT committee. Other members of the committee will be cycling off because their term of office is expiring.

Note: Here is the relevant section from the Faculty Code ---

(4) Officers.

(a) Eligibility; election; term. No later than the last day of the Spring semester (before the terms of the newly elected members begin), the Committee shall elect from among its members a new chair and vice chair, each to serve a one -year term beginning July 1. Any member who has at least one year remaining in a committee term or who has been re - elected to an additional, successive term is eligible to serve as chair or vice chair.

(b) Responsibilities of the chair and vice chair. The chair shall set the agenda for and preside at Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee meetings, and appoint hearing panels as required. In the absence of the chair, the vice chair shall assume these duties. The vice chair shall be responsible for the recording of the minutes

The next scheduled meeting for the AFT committee will be April 11, 2013 at 10:00 in CPD 152. At this meeting we will elect a chair and vice chair for the coming year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce Fifield (Chair)