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Utah State University
Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Minutes

February 7, 2013

DRAFT

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

Guests: Renee Galliher and Vincent Wickwar

Minutes from January 10 were modified to note that Kathy Riggs was not in attendance. Otherwise, minutes were approved as prepared.

Old Business

The committee reviewed the progress of one grievance that is currently being reviewed. The Hearing Panel has been established and respondents identified in the grievance statement are preparing their responses which are due no later than February 26.

Grant discussed minor adjustments that have been made to the timeline reference he has prepared as part of the Hearing Procedures Guidebook. Committee members made several suggestions about the reference and it was agreed that Bryce would share it with Larry Smith for his review. The intent is that the reference be absolutely consistent with the times outlined in the Section 407 and that it is consistent with the timelines used by the Provost's Office.

Renee Galliher and Vince Wickwar joined the committee representing the Section 406 and the Post Tenure Review task forces. Committee members had been provided with the taskforce recommendations last month and invited to review and provide feedback. Britt Fagerheim facilitated discussion of committee concerns regarding Section 406 (Financial Crisis) code changes and Robert Spall facilitated the discussion for recommendations regarding Post Tenure Review.

The AFT committee was asked to provide feedback on the proposed code changes. The committee determined not to provide a formal report detailing unresolved concerns or issues. In general, committee members viewed both sets of proposed changes as improvements over existing code. Concerns were voiced about lack of detail or clarity in some definitions and how the proposed changes might impact play out in very small departments or colleges.

The committee had a short discussion about whether to prepare and submit a more detailed list of issues and determined to respond to the request of the Faculty Senate President was simply to provide feedback. If there is a request for a more formal and detailed review of the recommended code changes, the AFT will allocate more time to the issue at our next meeting.

New Business

No new business was brought forward.

The next scheduled meeting for the AFT committee will be March 21, 2013 at 10:00 am in CPD 152.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce Fifield (Chair)