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Utah State University

Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee

Minutes

October 15, 2012

Meeting convened at 1:00 in room 152, Center for Persons with Disabilities. Three people joined the committee meeting by teleconference.

In attendance: Bryce Fifield (Chair), Grant Cardon, Lynn Keisker, Kathy Chudoba, Robert Spall, Maria Spicer-Escalante, Britt Fagerheim, John Stevens, Foster Agblevor, Kathy Riggs, Noel Carmak.

- Minutes from September 12, 2012 were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

The disposition of one inquiry panel was reviewed. The Provost recently requested AFT to name two members for an Inquiry Panel to review evidence that a faculty member had violated the Code of Conduct as it relates to consensual relationships. The faculty member resigned, so the Inquiry Panel was dismissed.

The committee discussed the different kinds of panels that are formed by the AFT committee in response to different issues (e.g., tenure and promotion, sanctions, violations of code of conduct, etc.). The role and function of the committee varies somewhat, depending on the nature of the issue, ranging from a review to determine whether appropriate code protocols have been followed to the review of evidence in situations where violations of the code of conduct are alleged.

Grant Cardon reported on progress developing a FAQ for committee members asked to chair a hearing panel. The committee spent considerable time discussing some of the procedural questions that they encounter when serving on such panels.

Bryce Fifield discussed strategies to encourage faculty and administrators to respond when asked to provide information/testimony as part of the grievance hearing process. He is developing language that can be used in letters, emails, and official communications regarding the grievance process to encourage their participation by appealing to social/peer pressure and an appeal to their institutional pride.

New Business

The committee reviewed Section 402 that outlines committee membership and considered the current committee membership. Bryce will prepare a chart that shows current committee membership compared to that outlined in the code.

The next scheduled meeting for the AFT committee will be November 26, 2012 at 1:00 in CPD 152.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bryce Fifield (Chair)