Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee Minutes, January 30, 2012

Utah State University

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The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by AFT Chair Richard Jenson.

Minutes for the December 1, 2011 AFT Committee meeting were read and approved.

- Helga presented suggested wording to replace calendar days with working days in 407.1.2. After a brief discussion and a wording adjustment, a motion was made to define “day” in 407 proceedings as a working day within the faculty contract period for Fall and Spring semesters, excluding Saturday, Sunday, and university holidays. This motion passed.

- Scott presented suggested wording to address a conflict in the code found in 405.6.5 with respect to required response of the ombudsperson and department heads when a process violation is observed by the ombudsperson. Discussion centered on the documentation required by the department head when the ombudsperson reports unresolved issues. A motion was made to propose a code amendment that requires: (1) the committee chair to immediately resolve process violations observed by the ombudsperson; (2) the ombudsperson to report unresolved irregularities to the department head; and (3) the committee report to document the violations and corrective actions. This motion passed.

- Craig presented a proposal to amend 407.6.5 define the role of advisors/attorneys in the grievance pre-hearing as being advisory only (they are not permitted to argue the case). A motion was made to approve this proposed amendment. This motion passed.

- Craig also presented a proposed addition to 407.6.6(2) to address the issue of unwilling or non-cooperating parties. A motion was made to accept this proposed amendment requiring that, in the case of non-cooperating parties, the hearing panel must proceed with a hearing that involves the willing participants and the available evidence. The panel is precluded from issuing a letter to the president without first holding the grievance hearing. This motion passed.

- Richard advised the AFT Committee that he was preparing the annual AFT report to the Faculty Senate and asked the committee to review the updated draft and provide input.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Jenson.