

Faculty Affairs Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Friday, April 8, 2011

10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Meeting started late (@10:50 a.m.) due to technical difficulties with AT&T conference call.

Committee Members Present: Brodowsky, Cheyne, Davis, Filling, Foroohar, Lessow-Hurley, Sabalius, Snell, Thobaben

Executive Committee Liaison: John Tarjan

Chancellor Office Guest: Christine Helwick

- 1. Approval of the agenda** – Approved by consensus.
- 2. Approval of the minutes for March 16, 2011** – Approved as presented by consensus.
- 3. Announcements:**

Secretary Guerin may not be able to join us at 1:00. If this is the case, John Tarjan will substitute.

At next plenary, Richard Katz who is a consultant doing a study on extended education will be put on FAC agenda.

Earlier today, the Extended Executive Committee spent some time talking about the ASCSU budget situation in anticipation of budgetary problems. If ASCSU gets hit by a budget cut, the body must figure out how ought to prioritize. In our March meeting, FAC provided some suggestions for budget cutting and shared them with Secretary Guerin. The committee decided there was no need to offer more specific suggestions during the April meeting.

Senators Stepanek and Cheyne have both heard from Governor's Office Appointment Secretary for preliminary information regarding their nominations for Faculty Trustee.

- 4. Review of Chancellor's Response to March Plenary Resolutions:** The response to the March resolutions has not yet been received. This item will be deferred to the May meeting.

5. Reports

- 5.1 Chris Helwick:** Discussed the issue of Academic Freedom and e-mail correspondence.

Question to Helwick regarding whether CSU would respond to requests for faculty e-mail in which she said decisions to do so would be made on a case-by-case basis. FAC asked what criteria are applied to each case. Helwick explained CSU applies criteria from the Public Records Act Statutory exclusion – where the confidentiality outweighs the public’s right to know. FAC also asked whether this applies to internal inter-faculty disputes that involve matters such as slander.

Helwick went on to explain that in the public arena, when members of the public make a request we don’t have the right to question the motives for that request. When there is litigation between two parties, the rules of discovery are applied. But in litigation cases, parties may use PRA to access records instead of rules of discovery.

Different sets of rules apply depending upon the genesis of the request, which fall into three broad categories:

- Public records
- Litigation
- Employer needs

They all are governed by the 4th Amendment search and seizure rules. FAC asked whether a faculty member would get notified if there has been a request for access under PRA and was assured that this is usually the practice.

Discussion then turned to Helwick’s memo on Academic Freedom. One question concerned whether FAC should suggest changing the language to make it less gender-specific as older versions of Academic Freedom policies and statements from the AAUP (in particular the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure as quoted in the 1971 BOT resolution) are totally male-dominated. We are interested in best practices regarding Academic Freedom as issues arise. What would be a process for effecting those changes and making it more gender neutral? We would need to present a resolution asking for changes to language, as opposed to substance.

5.2 John Tarjan (ExCom Liaison): Talked about the budget – there is no news about ASCSU budget – we suspect that a reduction will result in cuts to assigned time. Discussed inter-segmental lobby day, Early Start and the 1440 process, and potential Title V changes.

6. Resolutions

6.1 System-wide Policies on the Extended University [First Reading Waiver] – Cheyne: Part of what has delayed creating a draft resolution is that she is having trouble finding the appropriate Executive Order. After discussion with the committee, it was established that it is EO 802. Cheyne learned from Chris Mallon that EVC Smith is speaking to campus presidents today regarding the Extended University, and

following that a memo will be sent out to campuses. When Cheyne has 802 and the Smith memorandum in hand, the resolution will be drafted. FAC will thank Mallon for her efforts.

6.2 Academic Freedom in a More “Sponsored” Higher Education World [First Reading] – Filling: FAC’s last discussion indicated we will follow up with developments, but may wait until next fall before submitting a resolution for the plenary. Filling has drafted a resolution that will be discussed at the May meeting.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Open-records requests, faculty e-mail and academic freedom: See report above of the time certain with Chris Helwick.

7.2 Chris Helwick memo to Chancellor re academic freedom, Hank Reichman response and other relevant issues: See report above of the time certain with Chris Helwick.

7.3 Response to recent and current legislation: No discussion at this time.

7.4 Governance policy and practice within the ASCSU: Reported on by Lessow-Hurley. Some of this got addressed by the bylaws task force. The resolution to elect committee chairs got voted down. There were a number of other issues not charged to the task force, and a lot of the issues were defined as culture rather than legislated changes. The committee will not take any specific action at this time.

7.5 RSCA grants – outcomes reporting: This will be discussed with Beth Ambos at the May meeting.

7.6 COACHE survey re faculty satisfaction and morale – for more information see <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=coache> [Cheyne]: Some campuses currently are involved in the COACHE project, however costs are involved depending upon the size of the campus. Given the current budgetary issues, it was decided that the committee would not pursue the issue at this time.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.