

Faculty Affairs Committee
April 12, 2017
Minutes by Sine Anahita

Present: Josh Greenberg, Jeff Benowitz, Sine Anahita, Andy Anger, Debu Misra, and Dean Paul Layer.
Absent: JAK Maier, Val Gifford, Jeff May, and Troy Bouffard

The meeting started 18 minutes late due to technology problems that failed to connect a member by distance. (SA editorial comment: we have to find a solution to this chronic problem so that all members of the committee can fully participate in meetings.)

The agenda was approved with the addition of a new item about Honors qualification. Minutes from the last meeting were not immediately available for approval.

Old business:

The amendment to the program review process and the resolution asking the BoR to add an ex-officio faculty member passed Faculty Senate. Jeff B noted that similar resolutions about an ex-officio faculty member on the BoR passed UAF Staff Council, Staff Council Affairs, and UAS and UAA Faculty Senates.

Process for censuring administrators was discussed at the last meeting, but revisited again today. Is the Faculty Affairs Committee the appropriate committee? We discussed how the Faculty Administrator Review Committee (FARC) is only constituted when administrators are under review, and thus they are also not the appropriate committee. Debu noted that he served on FARC last year and the FARC suggested changes to the process to make it more uniform from year to year. Debu will summarize those changes, bring back to Faculty Affairs, who will revisit in September and consider returning to AdComm.

New business:

Blue Book revision process. Suggested as an addition to the agenda by Sine who is frustrated that the Blue Book revision process seems to have stalled. Jeff B noted that the committee has not met since spring 2016. Sine is especially concerned about how the massive failure of the new BLU evaluation system may negatively affect faculty in the evaluation process. Josh noted the response bias, biased questions, and other problems have resulted in invalid data. Debu noted that Provost Henrichs has indicated her willingness to consider changes to BLU. Members decided that Faculty Affairs should communicate to President-Elect Chris Fallen the necessity for the Blue Book revision committee be reconstituted or otherwise stimulated to do the revision work. SA will contact Chris.

Honors qualifications. Members decided we are not the appropriate committee to consider changes. Debu talked about his concerns. Paul noted that the last sentence in Debu's motion needs to be updated to reflect 2007 changes. Andy will take back to AdComm and request that it be sent to another committee (Curriculum?) and will summarize Debu's concerns.

Next meeting time

This is our last meeting this AY. Due to a resignation on Faculty Senate, Andy will be serving on Faculty Senate after all, so will convene the first Fall meeting. SA suggested moving the meeting up a week if possible.

Member comments

Not possible due to the late start of the meeting.