

Minutes
Faculty Affairs Committee – Kansas State University
December 5, 2006

Present: Betsy Cauble – chair, Stacey Warner, Judy Hughey, Dick Hoag, Mark Haub, Regina Beard, Dave Nichols, Richard McFarland, William Hsu, Kaleen Knopp, Clyde Howard, and Kathy Greene.

The meeting was called to order by Betsy Cauble, chair. The minutes of the November 17 meeting were approved.

Continuing Business

Grievance Procedure Report – Betsy will be meeting with representatives of the University Attorneys Office and the Provosts Office on December 15 to further discuss implications of the Kansas Open Meetings Act on the grievance procedure.

The Faculty Affairs Committee was made aware of the University Committee Handbook which does give a “Quasi-Judicial Exception” to several committees including the General Faculty Grievance Committee. This exception allows deliberations of the committee to be closed but specifies that the vote must be taken in public.

Betsy will request that the University Attorney’s Office provide us with a draft for the revised procedure.

Ancillary Appointments – The committee reviewed a draft for the University Handbook regarding ancillary appointments. The committee made a grammatical revision (changed complementing to complementary) as well as added the following phrase in italics to Section C27.2 – “An ancillary appointment is a five-year term *and is contingent upon a continuing regular faculty appointment.*” Dave moved to accept these changes. Dick seconded the motion which was then passed unanimously.

New Business

Provost’s Response regarding Salina Dean’s Five Year Review – Betsy and Kaleen reviewed information regarding the gathering of faculty/staff input into the five-year review of College of Technology Dean, Dennis Kuhlman.

On December 4, 2006 Provost Nellis sent a letter to the K-State at Salina faculty regarding the process used for gathering faculty/staff input into Dean Kuhlman’s five year review. While the Faculty Handbook calls for survey forms to be distributed in a hard copy format, the Provost’s Office requested input electronically, without consulting faculty about deviations from handbook policy. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee did hold an emergency meeting at which they reviewed the process and expressed concern that the stated procedure was not followed.

Kaleen brought to the Faculty Affairs Committee several concerns from the Salina faculty about this situation, including ethical concerns about the fact that the handbook procedure was not followed; anonymity of responses using the electronic survey; and the inability to provide sufficient comments in the electronic survey because of the character limits within the survey.

The Faculty Affairs Committee concurred that there were valid concerns regarding the process. These concerns are being taken forward to the Provost’s Office for consideration.

Other Reports

Betsy briefly reported on the following items:

Faculty Senate presidents and others are writing letters to legislators regarding the condition of regent’s university buildings.

A representative of the Faculty Salaries and Fringe Benefits Committee will be present at our next meeting.

The Faculty Affairs Committee will be asked to review the Policy on Mediation and Export Control Regulations at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be January 9, 2007.

Stacey Warner, Faculty Affairs Committee Secretary