University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

Members Present: Jonathan Bohlmann, Mei-Wei Chang, Yoonhyeung Choi, John Dirkx, Catherine Ernst, Clark Johnson, Terry Link, John W. Powell, Hayder Radha, Patricia Schenck, David Solomon, and Vladimir Zelevinsky.

Ex Officio: Robert Banks.

Others: John Revitte, Donna Zischke.

Call to Order: Co-Chairperson John Powell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: The boilerplate agenda used for the 2006-07 meetings was approved at the August 29, 2006 meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Professor Terry Link made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 24, 2006, supported by Dr. Zelevinsky. Dr. Powell asked that his comments be revised on page 3 under New Business, the fifth paragraph, where he spoke briefly about the UCFA Health Care Task Force (revised words lined out and revision words will be in italics and bolded).

“In the final discussion, it was determined that timely sharing of information by the Health Care Task Force with all groups will help assure one and all of what this group is doing. UCFA will serve as an asset to furthering the discussion. MSU is the only Big Ten university paying completely for their retirees’ health care.”

The Minutes were approved as amended.

Announcements: Dr. Powell reported that the October 24th Academic Council meeting was quite brief. They approved the bylaw changes that UCAP proposed consisting of “housekeeping” changes - position title changes: Assistant Provost to Associate Provost, for instance. President Simon and Provost Wilcox reported on several different aspects, with the emphasis on globalization and the opening of MSU’s new office in Beijing, China. There is the potential for MSU’s development in both the educational and research domains.

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget: John Dirkx, Chairperson Dr. Dirkx reported that David Byelich went over the latest university enrollment report showing 45,520 enrolled students, 354 students over last year’s enrollment. There was a great deal of data well presented and fully explained to the subcommittee members.

Subcommittee Reports,

Personnel Policy: Terry Link and David Solomon, Co-Chairpersons The subcommittee met very briefly
and did not cover any major topics.

Dr. Ernst reported briefly on the activities of Dr. Terry May, interim Faculty Conflict of Interest Officer, and he is beginning to put together a 3-ring notebook of information on the Faculty Conflict of Interest policy. He is also setting up meeting locations and dates for faculty to meet and voice their ideas, and he hopes to complete these meetings in a very short time. There will be more information on this very soon.

Professor Link reported that he has received about 100 responses to date to his request for feedback on behalf of ECAC for UCFA to review a proposal for an event to recognize faculty length of service. Responses are due on Friday, November 10th.

Old Business: Dr. Dirkx made a motion, supported by Dr. Solomon, to discuss and consider adoption of the Tuition Waiver Policy for Faculty and Librarians. The motion carried. Professor Link distributed copies of the draft policy for discussion:

Tuition Waiver Policy for Faculty and Librarians

Whereas we want to seek to be a learning community that fosters life-long learning in all members of our community, and
whereas we realize the growing need for interdisciplinary understanding, and
whereas knowledge creation is increasing exponentially, and
whereas our continuing budgetary struggles prevent us from offering more generous financial benefits, and
whereas collective bargaining employees, academic specialists, and extension staff have some tuition-waiver policy for MSU classes,

We therefore propose

that a policy be endorsed that provides faculty and librarians enrolling in courses, undergraduate or graduate, taught at Michigan State University with tuition waivers for one course per semester for the duration of their employment. Enrollment for full-time regular, retired, fixed-term faculty or librarians not otherwise covered by existing tuition waiver benefit will be limited to courses that have not reached maximum enrollment, unless admitted by instructor. In other words, the enrollment of a tuition-waiver enrollee cannot exclude a fee-paying student from enrolling. Faculty and librarians covered by this policy must meet prerequisites for the class unless waived by the instructor.

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Old Business, continued

There was a well-rounded discussion regarding adoption of the Tuition Waiver Policy for Faculty and Librarians. The result of the discussion was that Dr. Dirkx made a motion to amend the proposal and that language be added stating it is recommended to the Provost that he consider other groups within the university not currently covered under this policy, and Dr. Ernst supported this motion. The motion on the amendment carried. Dr. Radha made a motion to remove adjunct and clinical faculty from this consideration, and Dr. Dirkx supported it. The motion carried. Dr. Ernst made a friendly amendment to strike Extension staff from the policy. The Personnel Policy subcommittee will draft the policy incorporating the amendments and present it to UCFA next Tuesday.
New Business:
Dr. Powell led the discussion of a proposal to revise the policy excluding faculty from receiving tenure who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The proposed recommendation reads:

The University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA) recommends to the University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT) that they modify the current university policy that prohibits the granting of tenure to faculty who are not U.S. citizens or who do not have permanent resident status, so that tenure may be awarded if the faculty member has met all other university criteria for tenure. We believe that the UCFT is the appropriate venue for developing specific policy recommendations for implementing this change in university policy.

Professor Link made a motion to approve the proposal, supported by Dr. Choi. The motion carried.

Dr. Solomon made a motion, supported by Dr. Dirkx, to adjourn to subcommittees. The motion carried.

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned to subcommittees at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary