

TO: Dean Swartz
FROM: Faculty Organization Committee
RE: Annual Committee Report for 2005-2006
DATE: August 7, 2006

The Faculty Organization Committee for 2005-2006 consisted of Sarah Purcell (chair), Jon Andelson, David Harrison, Sam Rebelsky, and Rebecca Stuhr. The committee met regularly to transact the normal course of business (faculty elections, faculty committee assignments, replacements on committees, etc.) as well as to address issues of concern brought to us by members of the campus community. This year's FOC worked very hard on a number of important issues. A summary of the most important non-routine issues we dealt with this year follows:

1. Faculty Elections

At the first faculty meeting of the year, on August 24, 2006, FOC held a special election for two-year term members to the Personnel Appeals Board, in order to rectify vacancies created by the fact that no election was held the previous Fall. The committee also oversaw the normal Fall election of one-year term members to Personnel Appeals Board.

The overall change in the faculty election cycle instituted at the end of last academic year produced good results, and FOC found the new schedule easier to negotiate. The committee tried to announce voting eligibility rules frequently and to standardize practices of absentee voting.

2. Faculty Voting Eligibility

This issue took up a lot of time and energy for FOC in 2005-2006. Particularly at issue were the status of Lecturers to vote in departments, the voting eligibility of term faculty members, the voting eligibility of SFS faculty members, and the voting eligibility of faculty on leave.

Beginning in August, the committee was asked to render an opinion about eligibility to vote in Department chair elections. FOC unanimously advised the Dean's office that we felt the Handbook did not entitle Lecturers to vote in chair elections. FOC voted 4-1 that the term "currently teaching" means that the person must be teaching a course any time during the semester of the election.

During the Fall and Spring semesters, at the request of Dean Swartz, FOC worked on a series of proposals for changes in the Faculty Handbook that sought to clarify voting eligibility across all types of elections and proposed modest changes to voting eligibility for some faculty members (most especially SFS, term faculty, and Lecturers). On December 1, 2005, FOC sent a memo outlining changes in Handbook language to the Dean and Executive Council. Executive Council took up the matter, and early in the Spring, FOC met with representatives from the Executive Council to re-work the proposal. Ultimately, Executive Council and

the President decided to table the matter of voting eligibility and no action was taken.

3. Math and Computer Science Department Change

FOC worked with the Math and Computer Science Department on a proposal to split them into two separate departments. The proposal was approved at the November 7, 2005 Faculty Meeting, which approved new Catalogue language to describe the departments. The split took effect July 1, 2006, and as a department of fewer than four faculty, the President will appoint the new Computer Science Department's chair.

4. Committee Changes

FOC agreed to take over the appointments of membership for the Health Professions Advisory Committee, which previously was appointed by its chair. The committee will consist of eight members, primarily from the Science Division, but FOC will seek to include at least one committee member from Humanities and/or Social Studies.

FOC approved changes to the structure and faculty membership of the EcoCampus Committee. EcoCampus will have four faculty representatives, including one from each division, who will serve two-year staggered terms. The committee will also include four administrative and/or support staff and four students chosen in keeping with staff and student guidelines.

The Art Acquisitions Committee will evaluate its role during the 2006-2007 school year and decide whether to continue its existence.

The Off Campus Study Board proposed a number of changes in May 2006. FOC will take up their proposals early in Fall 2006.

FOC continued use of a (newly improved) internet form for soliciting faculty committee preferences. With proper technical support, this form makes the process much easier.

5. Faculty Governance

The committee frequently discussed issues of faculty governance, most especially procedures for an administrative "receivership" of departments which lack a chair. Sarah Purcell met several times with Wayne Moyer, chair of the faculty, Dean Swartz, and President Osgood to discuss procedures and appropriate timing for governance of a department whose chair had resigned.

After these meetings, FOC decided that the Faculty Handbook needed to contain some language about procedures for administrative appointment of Department Chairs in the rare circumstances that such appointments might be necessary.

At the April 17, 2006 Faculty Meeting, FOC introduced the following motion:

Add a new paragraph in Section III. B. 1. Election

After “In departments of fewer than four members, the President shall appoint the chair after consultation with the Dean of the College. Department chairs ordinarily should be elected or appointed from among the members of the department who hold the rank of associate professor or professor.”

Add: In rare and extraordinary circumstances, the President, after careful consultation with the Dean of the College and the Chair of the Faculty, may remove a department chair from office and appoint a temporary chair until a new regularly-elected department chair can take office.

The motion was approved at the May 1, 2006 Faculty Meeting.

6. Promotion Guidelines

The Executive Council consulted FOC for technical support on a lengthy series of motions to revise the Faculty Handbook language and procedures for promotion to Full Professor. Executive Council introduced its motions at the April 17, 2006 Faculty Meeting. The motions were tabled.

The 2005-2006 Faculty Organization Committee worked very well together, and I thank all the members of the committee for their vigorous and effective service.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah J. Purcell, chair