

## Faculty Standards Meeting Minutes: October 3, 2022

**Present:** Dan Burkey (Chair), Lisa Holle, George McManus, Betsy McCoach, Masha Gordina, Valarie Artigas, Elizabeth Jockusch, Jeffrey Shoulson, Bede Agocha, Martina Rosenberg, Joe Macdougald (by invitation)

**Absent:** Elaine Lee, Doug Degges (class conflict), Vicky Magley (sabbatical)

Meeting called to order 2:03 PM via WebEx.

**1. Review and approval of minutes:** The meeting minutes from the September 12, 2022 meeting were approved. (Motion: Lisa Holle, Second: Bede Agocha)

### 2. Continuing Business:

- **BoT Professorship Feedback:** Lisa Holle reached out to Michael Bradford in the Provost's office – Michael acknowledged the feedback request, and Dan Burkey will follow up. Michael's response suggested that some of the feedback from FSC could be implemented and some would likely not be, and so Dan's outreach will include a request for more specific feedback to be shared with FSC and JEDI, since Bede Agocha noted that one of the issues is diversification of the selection committee. Betsy McCoach also noted that a key element of the FSC committee's recommendation was more personalized feedback to candidates not selected in a given year, emphasizing their contributions, thanking for them for their time in submitting a package, and encouraging them to apply again. It was noted that BoT Professorship candidates are among the top and most productive faculty, so having them feel good about the process even if not selected was important.
- Jeffrey Shoulson re-shared the Nutmeg Professorship proposal with Provost D'Alleva, and there is no further update at this time while the Provost further considers the proposal.
- Dan Burkey updated the group on the AAUP/Provost's Office Working Group on Professional Development opportunities for CIRE faculty. This working group has met twice thus far and is currently working with OIR to get data that will facilitate further discussion of the impact (financial and otherwise) of potential sabbatical leaves for CIRE faculty. There is an opportunity for an AAUP-member of FSC to join the working group, and Bede Agocha expressed a willingness to serve if his schedule allowed. Betsy McCoach asked about the frequency at which tenure-track sabbaticals are granted or denied, and Dan Burkey indicated that this was one of the metrics that has been requested from OIR. Jeffrey Shoulson indicated that since sabbaticals have a financial impact, the BoT will likely be interested due to its fiduciary responsibility to the university. The next meeting of the Working Group is 10/17, and Dan Burkey will update the group at the next meeting.
- Lisa Holle and George McManus updated the group on their work in exploring different continuing support mechanisms for emeritus faculty. Several departments were contacted, and while differences between units was apparent, a common theme was that arrangements with emeritus faculty were often done on an *ad hoc* basis, and that space

constraints (office/lab) were often a significant issue to consider. Outside the email/library access provided by the university, suggestions were made to consider free parking for emeritus faculty on campus, or at least continued ability to purchase Area 2 parking, as well as continued access to IDC funds to spend down. Dan Burkey will explore these items with Parking Services and with the OVPRs office and report back. Lisa and George will continue to develop a guiding document for Department Heads that can be used as a framework for discussions with faculty considering emeritus status.

### **3. New Business**

- Joe Macdougald from Senate Exec/Law School joined the group to discuss the concept of “weaponized FOIA”, or an abuse of the Freedom of Information Act to harass faculty at the university. Joe is suggesting that legislative relief may be possible with a change to the law that would exclude certain elements of faculty emails/documents from FOIA, and noted that this was the practice in several other states. Joe has also been in discussion with the AAUP president regarding this issue. Both George McManus and Elizabeth Jockusch noted that there may be political implications for UConn to propose this type of legislative relief alone, and suggested pursuing in parallel with the other state colleges and universities and community colleges as a potential alternative. The group decided that this issue was worthy of further consideration by FSC and Joe will return to the group with a draft resolution for FSC to review and consider for submission to the entire Senate.
- Jeffrey Shoulson briefly updated the group on Interfolio, the new PTR software solution that the University is transitioning to for the 23/24 PTR cycle. Martina Rosenberg asked if this new system would replace HuskyDM, so as to avoid duplication of effort in reporting. Jeffrey noted that while this is possible in the future, for the immediate future, HuskyDM will continue to be used. Interfolio profiles will be portable, in that faculty can take them with them if they leave UConn, or import them here if they have used the system previously.
- Several members gave brief updates on how their schools/colleges/units are dealing with the requirement of new faculty governance documents and procedures as a result of the latest AAUP contract. At this time, there is no action that the FSC needs to consider on this topic, though that may change and units begin to work through the process and develop questions.

### **4. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 7 via WebEx. Motion to adjourn was made by Betsy McCoach and seconded by Martina Rosenberg. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:25 PM.