

Faculty Issues Committee
Minutes
September 6, 2012

Members present: Roann Barris (chair), Kim Gainer, Vince Hazleton, Christine Hermann, Mary LaLone, Monica Pazmino, Sandra Schneider, Andrea Stanaland

- I. The meeting was convened by Kim Gainer, the previous year's chair, at 3:37 p.m.
- II. Roann Barris was elected chair and presided from this point onward.
- III. Kim Gainer was elected recorder.
- IV. The committee discussed the objectives forward from the Faculty Senate Executive Council (FSEC).
 1. *Review AAUP and other relevant materials on "stopping the tenure clock" [...] and formulate a recommendation for RU's institutional policy.* Committee members will familiarize themselves with the resources on this objective. Dr. Hazleton volunteered to draft a motion pertaining to this objective, and the committee accepted his offer.
 2. *Review RU's current policies on family leave and academic work. See AAUP and other relevant materials on these issues [...] and formulate a recommendation for RU's institutional policy.* Committee members will familiarize themselves with the resources on this objective, and Dr. Barris will contact Joey Sword, Associate Director of Human Resources, and ask her to come to a committee meeting in order to fill in the committee on current policies.
 3. *Review the university calendar and investigate (i) campus interest and feasibility of a fall break, (ii) campus interest and feasibility (e.g., classroom space issues with Registrar's Office) of a shortened Friday schedule with no afternoon classes.* It was moved and seconded that the issue of fall break and the issue of a shortened Friday schedule be decoupled and addressed separately. The motion carried.
 4. *Review the Grade Appeals document and make recommendations regarding appeals hearings, Core 201/202 grade appeals, and cases of academic dishonesty. Liaise with FSEC for more information.* As Dr. Gainer serves on the FSEC, she will serve as FIC liaison. One question she was directed to pose to the FSEC was whether CORE 201/202 grade appeals had already been addressed by a motion passed by the 2012-2012 Faculty Senate.
 5. *Make recommendations regarding changes to the Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook regarding the rights of contingent faculty members including, but not limited to, the right to file appeals and grievances.* As Dr. Gainer serves on the FSEC, she was directed to ask the Council to define more precisely the problem the FIC is to address and to identify its locus in the Handbook.
 6. *Make a recommendation regarding the adequacy of the current student evaluation forms utilized in courses for online, hybrid, or other distance education course formats. Liaise with the University-Wide Task Force on Online Course Delivery.* For information on this issue, Dr. Barris will contact the task force on online courses that is being formed.
 7. *Liaise with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Bill Kennan, to review the newly revised policies related changes to summer school funding models and to follow up on summer school pay for faculty and the method(s) to be used to determine whether*

a course will “make.” As Dr. Gainer serves on the summer school funding task force, she will serve as FIC liaison.

- VI. The committee agreed that Objectives 1, 2, and 6 would be given the highest priority and 3.i the least.
- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Faculty Issues Committee
Minutes
September 20, 2012

Members present: Roann Barris (chair), Kim Gainer, Vince Hazleton, Christine Hermann, Mary LaLone, Laura Larue, Monica Pazmino, Sandra Schneider, Andrea Stanaland

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:34.
- II. The minutes of the September 6, 2012, meeting were approved as amended.
- III. Dr. Barris reported that she has contacted Human Resources and is awaiting a response.
- IV. Dr. Barris reported that she has not begun to liaise with the Online Task Force because it is still in the process of being formed.
- V. The committee continued its discussion of policies governing sick leave/family leave. Topics addressed included unpaid versus paid leave, federal mandates versus state and university policies, and VSRS options versus TIAA-CREF options.
- VI. The committee continued its discussion of the circumstances and policies under which the tenure clock may be temporarily suspended, including what procedures would be available to appeal a negative decision. Virginia Tech policies on this issue are available online, and Dr. Stanaland volunteered to compile the relevant passages from this resource. Additionally, Dr. Barris will contact Richard Alvarez, vice President for Finance and Administration, and invite him to an FIC meeting, and Dr. Schneider will contact Elizabeth Creamer at Virginia Tech.
- VII. It was moved and seconded that the committee address leave and the tenure timeline as separate issues. The motion carried.
- VIII. The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.