Annual Report of the Executive Committee of the Faculties of Arts, Sciences and Engineering

Academic Year 2015-16

Members of the Committee

Judith Haber, Professor of English, co-chair
Roger Tobin, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, co-chair
Harry Bernheim, Associate Professor of Biology
Alva Couch, Associate Professor of Computer Science
Jack Ridge, Professor of Earth and Ocean Sciences
Kim Ruane, Professor of Mathematics
James Glaser, Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences (ex officio, non-voting)
Jianmin Qu, Dean of the School of Engineering (ex officio, non-voting)

Introduction

The Committee held biweekly meetings to discuss issues related to faculty governance, as well as questions and problems raised by faculty members, committees, and members of the administration. It also participated with members of the administration in additional meetings that set the agenda for AS&E faculty meetings. The co-chairs of the Committee ran those faculty meetings.

Among the issues addressed by the Committee were the following:

Bylaw Changes

- The Bylaws outlining the duties of the Faculty Advisory Board and the Executive Committee itself were altered to more correctly reflect the roles of these committees.

- The Bylaws concerning the Tenure and Promotion Committee were changed so that that Committee now has eight members rather than six and the position of Secretary has been eliminated.

- Changes were made in the wording of the Bylaws concerning the Budget and Priorities Committee and the IT Committee.

- The Bylaws were changed to allow for remote balloting.

Other Changes Originating in Committees and Committee Reports

-- New T&P procedures were instituted for faculty with a primary appointment in one department and responsibilities in another department or program
--The EPC recommended proposals concerning Incomplete grades, displaying course evaluation results, delaying grades to encourage evaluations, and potential snow days for this academic year; all of these were passed.

--The Work/Life Balance Committee shared the results of the university-wide dependent care survey, and a resolution was passed to remedy the problems that survey revealed: the administration was asked to respond and report on progress in this matter by the end of this year (which they did) and in the future.

**Other Actions**

--A resolution was passed to change the holiday previously known as Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the AS&E calendar beginning in AY 2016-17.

--The Executive Committee facilitated a discussion of divestment from investment in fossil fuels at an AS&E faculty meeting. This discussion led to proposals to divest fossil fuel holdings in separately managed endowment funds by the end of AY 2016-17, to move to full divestment of all fossil fuel companies in our endowment in the future, and to develop a more deliberate, public action plan to place the University on track to reduce carbon emissions by 80 percent by 2050; all these proposals were passed by the faculty.

--A Faculty Forum was held to discuss the preliminary proposal for the creation of an all-university Faculty Senate.

**Committees**

Rather than meeting with all committee chairs at the end of the fall semester, as was the previous practice, Executive Committee members met with those who had notified us of concerns, allowing other committee chairs to meet with us if they chose. Committee chairs were also asked to respond to questions about their perceived effectiveness. We discussed issues with the chairs of the following committees:

--Campus Planning and Development. The chairs feel that their committee is not currently given the opportunity to be effective. They will be discussing this issue and possible remedies with Deans Glaser and Qu. **This remains a pending issue for the Executive Committee.**

--Committee on Student Life. The Executive Committee, in consultation with Deans Mary Pat McMahon and John Barker, developed a proposal for the creation of a new committee to deal with non-academic student affairs. The current CSL would be renamed and would concern itself solely with judicial issues and questions of student governance. CSL has not yet responded to the proposal, so **this issue is pending for next year.**

--Committee on Tenure and Promotion. The T&P Committee proposed the creation of a working group to compare our procedures to those of peer schools and suggest possible changes. The Executive Committee co-chairs believed that the charge of this group should be somewhat more focused. **This issue is pending for next year.**

--Faculty Advisory Board. The changes to the Bylaws that are mentioned above were agreed upon.
Other Pending Matters

In addition to those mentioned above, the following matters are pending for next year:

--Faculty Senate procedures, especially those concerning the School of Arts and Sciences.
--Possible changes to the Bylaws concerning the Athletics Committee and the Grievance Panel.

The co-chairs for the next academic year will be Roger Tobin and Fulton Gonzalez, who is returning to the Committee after a leave.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Haber and Roger Tobin