

AGOC

12/8 Minutes

Present: Grymes (secretary), Harris, Holifield, Humphrey, Issacson

After discussion, the following 3-part recommendation was moved for approval, seconded, and approved:

Part A:

To Replace Section I.c.5 of the Trustee's Faculty Handbook describing the AGOC:

The Academic Governance Oversight Committee

The Academic Governance Oversight Committee (AGOC) reviews academic governance procedures and performance and recommends modifications to the chancellor when necessary. Its purposes are to address issues regarding the implementation and functioning of the procedures contained in the Faculty Handbook and to make recommendations in that regard. Any committee or constituency group having academic governance responsibilities that experiences a possible violation of the spirit or intent of shared governance principles or procedures (but not specific actions, decisions or recommendations by individual committees in the discharge of their duties) may make a complaint to the AGOC, which will review the complaint and make recommendations to the chancellor of the University. The AGOC has 15 business days after a complaint is received to make a recommendation in writing to the chancellor. The chancellor shall render a final decision on the recommendation and communicate that decision in writing to the chair of the AGOC within 15 working days after receipt of the AGOC's recommendation. In the rare event that the chancellor does not follow the recommendation of the AGOC, the chancellor shall include his or her rationale. In these situations or when the complaint directly involves the chancellor, the committee may present the complaint and recommendation to the Board of Trustees for its timely consideration and action.

The committee also functions as a committee on committees. Retention of existing committees, discontinuation of existing committees, and recommendations for new academic governance committees or changes in membership or representation are reviewed by this committee. The committee is

responsible for tracking proposed changes in policy or procedure in the academic shared governance process. This committee is responsible for the annual review of the academic governance process and for a survey, to be conducted every three years, to assess faculty satisfaction with the governance process and present recommendations to the chancellor of the University. Membership consists of the president of the Faculty Senate; three faculty members (appointed by the Faculty Senate to three-academic-year terms), the presidents of the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Graduate Student Council (GSC), one dean appointed annually by the Academic Deans Council, and one chair appointed annually by the Chairs Council. The committee elects a chair at the beginning of each academic year.

PART B:

Recommend the addition to academic shared governance of a Faculty Handbook Committee. The Faculty Handbook Committee would be appointed by the Faculty Senate and its duties would be to function as a clearinghouse for handbook issues and changes. The Faculty Handbook Committee will be comprised of nine members, nominated by the Chair of the Faculty Senate and approved by the Faculty Senate. The members will include seven tenured faculty, a dean and a chair (appointed by the Senate in communication with the respective Councils). Each college will be represented. Each member will be appointed to a staggered 3-year term with a two-term limit. The committee will elect a chair and secretary at the beginning of the academic year.

PART C:

Recommend the following passage be added to the Faculty Handbook.

Procedure for making changes to the Faculty Handbook

Editorial changes in the Faculty Handbook can be made by the Faculty Handbook Committee without stakeholder involvement. Editorial changes are changes in simple wording or grammar that do not affect the content or meaning of the text. Such editorial changes can be made through the Faculty Handbook Committee with recommendations directly to the Vice Chancellor of Research and Academic Affairs.

Proposed changes to the Handbook shall include what text in the Handbook is being addressed; if the proposal is a change, addition or deletion of the existing text; a rationale for the proposed change; the

date the proposal was sent to the Faculty Handbook Committee; and the name and contact information of the individual or committee making the proposal. The Faculty Handbook Committee will notify the AGOC who will assign a tracking number and track the progress of the proposal through the Shared Governance process. Should a committee in the process not fulfill its governance obligations, then the Academic Governance Oversight Committee may intervene.

Any stakeholder may propose changes to the Handbook either via the appropriate sanctioned University Committee, or in the rare event that there is not an appropriate committee, directly through the Faculty Handbook Committee. All committees must then enter the proposal into the Shared Governance process and follow the Operational Procedure for the Implementation of Academic Governance (see the Section I.C.4) which includes notification to the Academic Governance Oversight Committee. All recommendations, negative or positive, must be forwarded to the next governance level within fifteen working days. If a proposal cannot be addressed in the timeline presented, the appropriate committee will petition the Academic Governance Oversight Committee for an extension.

Any proposed changes in policy or procedure that would create a change in the Faculty Handbook must be sent to the Faculty Handbook Committee and flow through the Handbook change process and then enter into the Academic Shared Governance process.

TIMELINE

A constituent forwards a proposed change in the Faculty Handbook to the Faculty Handbook Committee; the Faculty Handbook Committee Chair forwards it to the AGOC for the purpose of assigning a tracking number.

The proposed change is recommended to an appropriate, sanctioned university committee(s) by the Faculty Handbook Committee Chair in a timely manner.

The appropriate university committee(s) has 15 working days to consider the recommendation.

A Public Hearing to discuss the proposal is co-hosted by the Faculty Handbook Committee and the appropriate university committee(s) and will be conducted at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

The appropriate university committee(s) and the Handbook Committee utilizes information from the Public Hearing to make any changes/edits to the recommendation and forwards the final recommendation to the Faculty Senate within 15 working days of the Public Hearing.

The Faculty Senate has 15 working days to make a recommendation (positive or negative) and forward it to the VCRRRA and other appropriate vice-chancellors; at this point the recommendation enters fully into the Shared Governance process (I.C.4).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joanna Grymes.