Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 10, 2008  
1-3 PM, Manners Room, RCB  
Minutes

Present: Peggy Albers, Chip Barksdale, Cathy Brack, Annette Butler, Mary Jo DeJoice, Cheryl Delk, Laura Fredrick, Gerald Gay, Joe Hill, Dave Pavesic, Kris Varjas, Marta White, Hugh Hudson, Shelby Frost

Guests: Leslie Cotton, George Rainbolt

Call to Order: P. Albers called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Minutes of April 11: Motion to approve minutes from April 11, 2008; passed

Meeting Logistics: Monthly, 1-3, alternate Wed and Thursday (see dates below); all meetings with the exception of Oct 16th (COE 654) are in RCB Manners Room

FAC Responsibilities Reviewed

The duties of this committee shall be to review and recommend to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and to the University Senate policies which relate to faculty members and their welfare, including recruitment; faculty development; faculty research; academic freedom; promotion and tenure; leaves; compensation programs; health, life insurance programs, and other fringe benefits; and retirement.

Discussion of Issues

Changes in Benefits Package

Lesli Cotton updated the FAC regarding changes in benefits package to be rolled out during Open Enrollment. The plans as she presented were still being finalized but several key changes are of note: Board of Regents indemnity healthcare plan premium has increased by 98%; GSU is moving from 8 vendors to 4; GSU employees whose vendors are no longer with the university will be subsumed by the other 4. Participants whose plans are affected will be notified by email.

Attendance Policy

G. Rainbolt presented a policy regarding attendance that states that students who miss class due to university or course-related absences will not be penalized in terms of grades. Current policy states that students can miss up to 15% of the class without penalty; GSU is presently the only university with this cap. The new policy was drafted, largely due the number of times a student must miss for sports-related activities (travel, days of play). George presented the pros and cons for the new policy under consideration, and recommended that the FAC draft a response to this policy which keeps the current policy in place.

Customized Books

G. Rainbolt presented the issue regarding ethics and the publishing and purchasing of Customized Books. Publishers contact professors regarding customized course textbooks for courses that offer royalty incentives to both the professor and the university; Students buy these course texts without knowledge of publisher-university financial arrangement; Students cannot sell course textbooks back to bookstore; invites large profits to publishers with sales of new books bought rather than used; Students incur
more costs per course for required books; Ethical issues of “Who benefits” come into play.

George recommended that the FAC look into this matter and consider writing a policy that prevents what may be unethical practices in considering textbook purchase.

**Tenure Clock Delay and Family Leave**

Laura Frederick, presenting on behalf of Amy Lederberg, discussed a need to write policy that was more faculty-friendly regarding leave and tenure clock delay. The current policy with the BOR links both tenure clock delay and leave together. P. Albers, M. White, and H. Dangel worked on this issue for the past two years, but was informed that GSU does not have its own policy.

Discussion suggested that FAC investigate this issue further, draft policy that separates tenure clock delay from leave.

Discussion to work on policy that was more expansive in terms of what life events would be covered under this policy. Further, the change from 10 weeks to 2 weeks was offered.

A motion was placed on the floor: To write a resolution as a guide to the Provost in stopping the tenure-clock.

A subcommittee was formed to investigate and work on this policy: Marta White, Denise Donnelly, John Duffield, in collaboration with Mary Finn. They will report back on their work at the next meeting.

**Revision of Deans Evaluations/Development of Template for University Administrators**

This issue has been presented to another subcommittee, and the FAC will not work with it until the subcommittee has made their recommendations.

**Career Ladders for Professionals**

The Academic Program Committee has met; Subcommittee will get feedback on the document from APs the week of Sept 15; it will then go to Deans and Provost for feedback; and then it will come to FAC.

**Items Tabled for October Meeting**

**Off-campus Housing**

This item was not discussed due to time.

**Childcare at GSU**

Issue relates to need for additional space for childcare and differences in tuition costs at the Georgia State's Capitol Hill Child Enrichment Center (GSCHCE) and Suttles Center. Update will be presented in October.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:50PM.