

Commission on Faculty Affairs

Minutes - 20 March 1992

Present: T. Bonham (for R. Sorensen), D. deWolf, C. McDaniels, M. Murray, C. Schwertz, J. Wolfe (for F. Carlisle).

Guests: K. Heidbreder, J. Stokes, T. Bourdon, J. Harvill and L. Plaut.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 PM
2. The minutes of March 6, 1992 were approved as circulated.
3. New Business: the meeting was devoted to discussion of the "Proposed Revisions to the Instructor Policy" dated March 17, 1992, for inclusion in the Faculty Handbook.

The first discussion focused upon "Appointments are renewable annually". The Commission expressed the reservation that annual appointment was not in the spirit of the proposal's original intent. The Commission was aware that because of annual state funding, there is no true continuing appointments, even among tenured faculty. In order to preserve the proposal's original intent the following change in the language of sentence 2 of 2.4.2 was moved, seconded and passed. Sentence 2 of 2.4.2 was changed to: "Initial appointments are for 1 year; subsequent appointments may be for a maximum of 2 years (subject to availability of General Assembly funding)" and are not subject to the limitations of the pre-tenure probationary period. "Changed matter"

The second discussion was a consequence of changing 2.4.2. Changes in paragraph 2, section 2.7 were required because of possible 2 year appointments. It was pointed out that if a deadline for non-reappointment of an instructor holding a 2 year appointment was missed, an instructor might assume they held an additional 2 year appointment and that with the 1 year notification period for nonreappointment, they could serve a total of 3 years. Because of that concern and the commitment of the Commission to providing as much security as possible, the following motion was made, seconded and passed. Sentence 2 of paragraph 2 of Section 2.7 now reads: "Every effort will be made to furnish notice of reappointment of a least three months in the first year of appointment (by February 1 for academic year faculty or three months before the end of the employment year for calendar-year faculty), of at least six months in any subsequent one year appointment and one year for any two year appointment. In the event that notice of non-reappointment is not furnished by the appropriate date, the instructor is automatically awarded an additional one year appointment."

Question was raised about the language of Section 2.3.1 concerning the promotion beyond Assistant Professor. Language will be added referring to the appropriate section Faculty Handbook.

The Commission voted to forward the revised resolution on Instructors to the Provost's office for its final review (and incorporation of appropriate language to Section 2.3.1). A final draft will be sent to members of the Commission on Faculty Affairs for their approval. Any additions or corrections will be communicated ASAP to the Chair (Joe Falkinham, Biology, 1-931 or E-mail JOFTOPSM on vm1). If there are no changes of substance, he will forward the resolution to University Council for first and second reading (hopefully this semester).

The Commission adjourned at 3:00 PM