

Senate ad hoc Committee to Investigate NTS Faculty Issues
Minutes for April 1, 2015

Committee members: Irene Frieze [Psychology, TS faculty], Carey Balban [Provost's Office liaison], Stephen Ferber [Office of Human Resources liaison], Don Bialostosky [English, TS], Helen Cahalane [Social Work, NTS], Bill Gentz [Univ Library System], Sue Skledar [Pharmacy, NTS], Jay Sukits [Business, NTS], Cindy Tananis [Education, NTS], Seth Weinberg [Dental Medicine, TS], Frank Wilson [Greensburg, Sociology, NTS].

All present except Steve Ferber. Michael Spring, Senate President, attended the meeting.

1. Cindy reported that our recommendations were being discussed by the Senate Educational Policies Committee.
 - a. One issue is whether our recommendation that NTS teaching faculty have a formal voice in curriculum issues was intended to apply only to full time NTS faculty. The consensus was that this was our intent. The issue of how this should be done for part time NTS faculty is complicated and merits further discussion.
 - b. A second concern was how teaching evaluation should be done for NTS faculty. The subcommittee on OMETS is discussing this.
2. Irene asked Carey if any steps had been made to update Provost Maher's letter about annual faculty evaluations. Carey said that the Provost's Office had not taken this task on yet. [We had recommended some time ago that this be done to better explain the review process for NTS faculty].
3. What NTS issues should apply across campus rather than being determined by the unit?
 - a. Guarantee of academic freedom in terms of choices about teaching. Would this apply in other areas in addition to teaching? Seth had proposed this as one of these general issues. After some discussion, we decided to discuss this further at our next meeting after we reviewed the existing policies on academic freedom.
 - b. General guidelines for providing emeritus status for NTS faculty. Sue asked that this be considered as one of these issues. She will bring a formal proposal for our next meeting.
 - c. Another general issue is whether NTS faculty should ever be given sabbaticals. As Carey pointed out, the University bylaws state that these are only given to tenure-stream faculty. It was noted that librarians do have paid leaves like sabbaticals. No conclusions were made about this issue.
4. Job titles. As we discussed, these tend to differ across units, both in terms of the titles used and the way the titles are defined. Since Steve was not able to attend the meeting, this was tabled.
5. Part Time Faculty.
 - a. Don reported on a meeting held in March [Conversations on Part-Time Faculty Experience]. Issues raised at the meeting included the need for mentoring for

part-time NTS faculty. There was also a request that there be more lead time given for part-time faculty to prepare for teaching duties. Another request was that longer contracts be given for people who teach regularly on a part-time basis. Don reported that the English Department is already developing one year contracts to do this.

- b. We did not have time to discuss other part time issues. There was some consensus that these should be tabled to be taken up by a new ad hoc committee next year.
6. Plans for future meetings. We will meet in May after we determine the best time for committee members.