

Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee Minutes

18 September 2020 Meeting

Zoom

Present: Carey Balaban, Nick Bircher, Jane Cauley (Secretary), Abbe de Vallejo (Co-Chair), Maria Kovacs (Co-Chair), Chris Bonneau, Barry Gold, Ergin Kocyildirim, Kirill Kiselyov, Karin Warner, Mark Paterson, OJ Ostrosky, Jessie Van Swearingen, Chloe Page, Stephen Jacobus, Lu-in Wang (Vice Provost Academic Affairs, Marty Levine(University Times), Lori Molinaro, Kris Davitt (Office of Policy Development), Elizabeth Mulvaney, Douglas K. Reed (Center for Vaccine Research), Tyler Tennery (Office of Policy Development).

Excused: John Wallace (Vice Provost Faculty Diversity and Development)

Absent: Monica Costlow, John Kirkwood, Helen Petracchi, Kelly Tatone, Ann Thompson,

Meeting was called to order at 11:31AM by Abbe de Vallejo. There was a quorum of at least 7 voting members at the start of the meeting.

OPEN SESSION

1. Introduction of new members and visitors:
 - a. Chloe Page, postdoc representative replacing Agustin Cruz
 - b. OJ Ostrosky, graduate student representative replacing Amada Leifson
 - c. Professor Lu-in Wang, Vice Provost Academic Affairs, Chancellor-appointed liaison to T AFC
 - d. Professor John Wallace, Vice Provost Faculty Diversity & Development, Chancellor-appointed liaison to T AFC
 - e. Tyler Tennery and Kris Davitt, Office of Policy Development
 - f. Dr. Douglas Reed, Associate Professor, Center for Vaccine Research and Department of Immunology
 - g. Marty Levin, University Times
2. The minutes of the previous meeting (July 16, 2020) were approved.
3. Draft Policy: Gifts/Naming. Office of Policy Development
 - a. Discussion led by Carey Balaban who had collated all comments.
 - b. Kris Davitt described the purpose for the new policy. Pitt's policy was not up to industry standards and had not been updated since 2005. She is a Pitt employee and reports to Chancellor Gallagher, but she also reports UPMC President Jeffrey Romoff.
 - c. General T AFC consensus is that the overall document is good and T AFC supports it. However, the following suggestions were made:
 - i. Gifts must be "consistent with University's mission". This language is vague and not clear.
 - ii. Must emphasize academic independence and academic freedom. State explicitly that Donors/Gifters will have no influence on faculty activities, academic programs, and research priorities.
 - iii. Must acknowledge Joint governance explicitly in the document.

- iv. Need to add a section about the “pre-vetting” process that occur at the unit level before the proposal of Gift/Naming goes to SVC PAE.
 - v. Remove the word “unduly” in the Appendix statement.
4. Announcements: None

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Cauley