

Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee Minutes

10 May 2021 Meeting

Zoom

Present: Carey Balaban, Nick Bircher, Barry Gold Jane Cauley (Secretary), Abbe de Vallejo (Co-Chair), Maria Kovacs (Co-Chair), Chris Bonneau (President Univ Senate), Ergin Kocyildirim, Kirill Kiselyov, John Kirkwood, Mark Paterson, Chloe Page, Lu-in Wang (Vice Provost Academic Affairs), Lori Molinaro, Elizabeth Mulvaney, Ann Thompson (Vice Dean SOM); John Wallace (Vice Provost Faculty Diversity and Development), Rakesh Sindhi, Jessie Van Swearingen, Donovan Harrel (University Times)

Absent: Karin Warner (excused), Stephen Jacobus, Helen Petracchi

AGENDA:

Open Session:

Roll Call – Meeting started 3:04 – Quorum met

1. Approval of minutes of February 9, 2021 meeting unanimously approved
2. Policy on Gifts and naming (Carey): approved by Faculty Assembly and Senate;
3. Kirill: representative for TAFC on University-wide ad hoc committee reviewing 3 policies on harassment (CS07), sexual misconduct (CS20) and Title IX (CS27) summarized ongoing discussion:
 - (a) Title IX and sexual misconduct likely to merged into one policy.
 - (b) Mandatory reporting: Not universally agreed by the committee members;
 - (c) Committee responsive to TAFC recommendation for the constitution of a faculty panel that would review complaints/allegations against faculty as prescribed by AAU guidelines
 - (d) Academic freedom: Kirill pushing to follow AAU guidelines;
 - (e) Balancing due process vs protecting the victim.
4. The issue on the use of a “Journals List” as tool in faculty evaluations and promotions was presented to Faculty Assembly in November 2020. There were many concerns raised, especially stifling of faculty creativity and non-representation of journals in specialized fields. TAFC subcommittee drafted a resolution so that faculty assembly could consider bringing this issue to the administration. Discussion followed.
Action Item: Carey to send edits to Abbe in one week.
5. Revision of Existing Grievance Policy: Discussion
 - (a) Policy very vague;
 - (b) Kiril: Under AAUP guidelines, when a grievance is filed, TAFC should be involved at the beginning and throughout the entire process; Right now TAFC involved too late in the process;
 - (c) Chris Bonneau: The charter for a committee to review the policy has not been signed off; it needs to be routed thru TAFC and faculty assembly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane A. Cauley