Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee Minutes
22 September 2021 Meeting
Zoom

Present: Abbe de Vallejo (Co-Chair), Nick Bircher, Maria Kovacs (Co-Chair), Karin Warner, Kirill Kiselyov, Don Ulin, Donald Yealy (Chancellor’s Liaison-SOM), Barry Gold, Stephen Jacobus, Laura Miller, Ergin Koeyildirim, Elizabeth Mulvaney, Robin Kear (Senate President), John Kirkwood, Chris Bonneau (Past President Univ Senate), Jane Cauley, Mark Paterson (Secretary)

Absent: Carey Balaban (excused), Caroline Arena (Student Rep), Monica Costlow (Staff Rep), Helen Petrarchi (Pro-temp), Jessie VanSwearigen (Pro-temp), Rakesh Sindhi (Pro-temp)

Open Session

1. Roll call, quorum met, meeting called to order by Abbe at 1.35pm

2. Minutes of the previous meeting 10th May were approved, with correction to indicate Karin Warner was on a medical leave of absence at that time.

3. New members introduced and welcomed: Don Ulin, English-Bradford; Caroline Arena, Student Rep, CGS; Robin Kear, Senate President; Don Yealy, Chancellor’s Liaison-SOM

4. Old Business.
   I) Kirill provided updates on the ad hoc policies review committee (PRC) reviewing CS07, CS20, CS27.
      a. The PRC was supportive of the involvement of peer review panel in adjudicating cases. There was further discussion about the importance of this panel.
      b. TAFC continues to advocate for the involvement of faculty peers when the case involves faculty.
      c. TAFC suggests that the faculty panel should work with ODEI investigator(s) at an early stage and that the faculty panel should have investigatory authority and have active decision-making ability.
         Action item: This position will be conveyed to the PRC by Kirill. Kirill explained this policy review will continue until around December, so there is still time for input.
   II) According to Robin and Chris, the Faculty Grievance policy (AC22) review panel has not yet been constituted. It appears that the Provost must initiate this, which then gets to be implemented by Tom Hitter’s office.
         Action Item: Robin Kear to raise initiating a Grievance Policy review committee in her next meeting with Vice Provost Lu-in Wang and with AVC Tom Hitter (OPDM).
   III) Resolution on the policy of having a Preferred Journals List. The most recent draft was presented; one small grammatical change made. It was also moved and seconded that this be submitted to the next Faculty Assembly on October 6th.
         Action item: Abbe to email Robin Kear with the slightly amended resolution.
Closed session

1. Voting faculty and pro-tem faculty members stayed on the meeting.

2. Update on cases:

I) Faculty member in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences sought help with a presumed discrimination and other claims for non-renewal of contract. TAFC’s initial review suggested no basis. But faculty was also advised that discrimination is outside the purview of TAFC and can be pursued by the faculty by contacting ODEI.

II) Faculty in the School of Engineering, denial of promotion. Contrary to the faculty’s concerns, TAFC found there was no violation of policies or procedures.

III) Update: Ongoing case of appeal of charges of sexual harassment (CS07). It was recommended that the only option left is to appeal to the Chancellor, based on denial of due process.

   **Action Item:** TAFC assist the faculty in framing the appeal to the Chancellor.

IV) Update: A faculty member in SOM who was censured over views expressed in a published journal article has taken legal action. TAFC continues to check in with the faculty to monitor well-being and any administrative actions.

Abbe called the meeting closed at 2.56pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Paterson
Secretary