

Tenure and Academic Freedom Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 7, 2014  
156 (1<sup>st</sup> floor) Cathedral of Learning

1. The meeting was called to order by co-chairs Barry Gold and Maria Kovacs at 2:05 p.m.
2. Welcome, roll call. Elected members present included: Chris Bonneau, Barry Gold, Maria Kovacs, Marianne Novy, Russell Salter. Also present was Carey Balaban (Chancellor's Liaison). Guests included: Jeff Aziz, John Baker, Nicholas Bircher, Tom Hales, Rebecca Hughes, Nick Mance, Scott Nelson, Annette Vee and Seth Weinberg
3. Replacement of committee secretary: Marianne Novy volunteered to serve until her sabbatical begins in the fall.
4. The minutes of the December 2 meeting were approved.
5. New business, part 1. There was a lengthy discussion of the proposal to constitute an ad hoc committee to review and address issues of academic freedom of speech in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Recent actions against university faculty in Kansas and Wisconsin were the precipitants. The university's most recent statement on academic freedom (2002) was briefly considered, as were concerns such as the effect of social and electronic media, harassment laws, the "reasonable person" standard, freedom of speech of a citizen, and the difficulty or perhaps impossibility of distinguishing between one's personal and professional identity, especially when knowledge of where one works is usually readily accessible, and the distinction between a statement and a policy. It was decided by unanimous vote to establish a subcommittee to be chaired by Barry Gold to explore Pitt policies related to academic freedom with regard to E-mail, social media, etc.
6. New Business, part 2. There was a lengthy discussion of a Resolution for Faculty Assembly to create an Ad Hoc Committee to Review Current Pitt Guidelines for Evaluating Tenured Faculty with respect to salary reductions. The Resolution will be circulated for members' comments and then an electronic vote will be taken on the finalized document.
7. Old Business. An ongoing case was discussed in closed meeting.
8. Adjournment at 5:05 p.m.