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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee Meeting, Friday, September 6, 2011

Arts & Sciences Professional Standards Committee

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PSC Minutes 9/6/11

Present: Joan Davison, Julie Carrington, Julia Foster, David Charles, Dorothy Mays, Emily Russell, Bob Smither.

Joan Davison is chair of PSC this year, and Dorothy Mays is secretary. Barry Levis and Robert Vander Poppen will also be serving on the committee but were unable to attend the first meeting.

The committee reviewed items from last year that are not yet resolved:

- 1) Review of appropriate overload pay for field study courses. This was first brought to the committee's attention in 2009. Last spring Giselda Beaudin from International Programs brought a proposal to PSC regarding compensation levels, and it was passed by the committee, so we will not be re-opening this topic.
- 2) FYRST and Cornell Grants. We will be reviewing grant proposals in October. There was some discussion about what should occur if a member of PSC is applying for a grant. It was decided that person should recuse themselves from the room during the discussion of their grants, but they should participate in discussing the other applications.

There was some discussion about the workload associated with review of grants. In the past there have been some suggestions that Grants should be spun off to its own committee. All of the returning PSC members agreed that GYRST and Cornell grants were an integral part of PSC's responsibilities and we should continue to review them. All agreed that grants for Student-Faculty Collaborations were a lot of work and perhaps we need to reconfigure the procedures, requirements, and the nature of the applications in order to make the workload more manageable.

Julie Carrington has a checklist that was used for assessing grants in previous years. It will be distributed to the committee via email, and we will review it at our next meeting.

- 3) Other Grant responsibilities (especially Student-Faculty Collaborations). A good deal of time was spent discussing the requirements for Student-Faculty Collaboration proposals. There is concern that the current hierarchy for distributing the funding (Type II grants receive funding before Type I grants are considered) is making the possibility of student-faculty collaboration unlikely for non-science students no matter how excellent their proposal. There was concern that last year almost all the funding was used by Type II Grant proposals (which strongly favor Sciences). This was partly due to the renovation of the Bush building, which resulted in higher than usual applicant pool from the Science students who do not believe they will have a shot at summer research due to lack of lab space in 2012 and 2013.

We also have concerns that the criteria used to assess the proposals lean towards research in scientific disciplines and are often not suitable for the way research is done across the

disciplines. We wondered if we have the ability to tweak these requirements so that students from the Humanities and Social Sciences will not be penalized due to the nature of the research to be conducted. There is also some confusion about who has ultimate responsibility for these grants. Bob Smither noted that much of the funding for student research has been transferred to the Dean of the College, but funding for faculty research remains with Dean of the Faculty. We believe that these grants will be transferred back to the Dean of Faculty's office, but it is still under discussion with the various vice-presidents. Last year, Deb suggested that the distinction between Type I and Type II grants was going to be phased out, but we don't know if that has occurred. We will invite Chris Fuse to attend a future meeting to discuss a number of issues relating to funding priorities and review of applications.

- 4) We discussed access to CIE results as part of the grant review process. Although sometimes applicants reference their strong CIE scores, we currently have no way of looking at their scores, nor of looking at competing grant applicants to see if they have similarly strong scores. We decided not to ask for access to CIE scores. They are rarely relevant to the type of grants we review, and it would be intrusive to faculty members who do not wish their scores to be part of the process.
- 5) We discussed the status of the Informed Peer Review proposal that was passed last year. This is a voluntary process by which faculty volunteers will be trained by the Christian A. Johnson center on the principles of informed peer review. James Zimmerman will be in charge, and will be issuing a call for volunteers as soon as he knows what sort of budget he will have.
- 6) Ownership of online course material. Although there have been concerns brought to PSC last year regarding faculty's ownership of courses they build for an online environment, the college already has a policy on this, which tends to be very faculty-friendly in terms of owning material they create for their classes. That policy can be found here: <http://www.rollins.edu/hr/policies/docs/general-policies/010000.pdf> In light of this policy, it is unlikely PSC will revisit this issue.
- 7) Equitable pay for teaching in Master's level programs. PSC began a discussion last year about varying levels across departments and programs for teaching masters' level classes. We never came to a resolution on the issue. Joan will ask the Executive Committee for clarification if this topic falls within the purview of PSC.
- 8) Faculty Bullying Policy (clarification: this is in reference to faculty collegiality amongst ourselves, not faculty behavior towards students.) The matter was discussed in Executive Committee, which has strong feelings that such a policy would be a can of worms. Beyond forbidding discriminatory behavior toward protected groups, it would be difficult, maybe impossible, to codify and enforce collegial behavior. We agree and have no interest in pursuing this.
- 9) Faculty Feedback for Provost and Dean of Faculty. We originally wanted to do these surveys every 2 years, but given that both people serving in these positions are brand

new, we question the value of such a report. Although both the Provost and acting Dean expressed willingness to participate, the only real value of proceeding at this time would be to honor the precedent. We do not believe the surveys would gather meaningful feedback at this point, and recommended not to proceed this year.

10) A&S Bylaw changes. Although this consumed an immense amount of PSC time last year, we decided it would not be a good idea to tackle this issue until other college bylaw issues are resolved. There may be an opportunity in the Spring to re-open our recommendations, but for now we will table them.

Joan asked for new business we should consider this year:

- Emily suggested a modification to how we use our current travel budget. She would like to have a nominal amount set aside (perhaps \$300) to be used for course development, local travel with students, or other incidental research expenses that don't warrant a Critchfield. Others on the committee suggested that the purpose of travel money was to get Rollins faculty out in the world. No resolution was decided, and it is likely to be an agenda item for this year.
- Student funding for conferences. Bob Smither noted that there is very little funding for students to attend conferences....only around 5K, and already ten students have indicated interest in traveling to a conference. We may need to develop some guidelines for how students should get funding for travel to conference, but Joan believes this is probably a Student Life issue.

Other Business:

The summer committee that wrote the proposed bylaws recommended cross-representation on CPS and A&S committees, but PSC will maintain control of grants across CPS, A&S, and Holt.

Our next meeting will be on September 27th. We will discuss the criteria sheet for evaluating grants. Chris Fuse will be invited to discuss student-faculty collaborative grants.