

Academic Standards Council (Faculty Senate)
Meeting of February 13, 2023
2:00 pm

Present: B. Ashnai, S. Fancera, S. Hill, R. Kearney, M. Kromidas, T. Nemeth, M. Springer

Absent: J. Brown

Guest: G. Marks

1. **Discussion of Governance Council Queries** – The Council welcomed Governance Council Chair Gary Marks, who had previously submitted to the Council questions regarding its standing charges and whether or not the Council’s view was that it should have a manual or handbook detailing its operations and procedures. Following a discussion, the Council recommend some minor modifications to its standing charges and indicated that it may be useful to produce a manual or handbook detailing its operations and procedures. Marks thanked the Council and indicated the Governance Council would be submitting a full report to the Senate summarizing all recommendations after it has had a chance to meet with the other Councils.
2. **Discussion of Item Submitted by the Senate Executive Committee Regarding Academic Standards for Retention and Promotion of Non-Tenured Teaching Professionals** – The Council reviewed a message the Senate Executive Committee received from the Provost, stating:

“The NTTP Agreement with the Union specifies a need for Faculty Senate to identify criteria for annual retention, and downstream promotion. I am inviting the Faculty Senate in whatever way you think appropriate (delegated to a Council or an ad-hoc committee) to review the attached and identify appropriate criteria that establishes the standards of performance reflected on page 2 based on the language of the Agreement.”

Following a discussion, the Council concluded that it was not the appropriate body to identify the criteria for NTTP retention and promotion. The current criteria for tenure-track faculty retention and promotion were arrived at through extensive discussions between faculty, the administration, and the AFT. The Council’s view is that criteria for NTTP retention and promotion should involve similar representation and use the existing criteria for tenure-track faculty as a starting point for discussion. The Council agreed to report this back to the Senate Executive Committee.

3. **Standing Charge: Review of Academic Policies** – During the discussion with Governance Council Chair Marks, it was noted that while one of the Council’s standing charges is to:

Liaise with university officials responsible for all academic policy matters to conduct an ongoing review of their effectiveness.

there has been no history of any such practice in recent years. Kearney recommended that a basis for this practice be established, initially by conducting an inventory of the current academic policies that fall within the scope of the Council's purview. He proposed to compile this inventory prior to the next meeting, and this was agreed to.

4. **Adjournment** – The Council adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kearney