

**Commission on Faculty Affairs
Minutes
September 17, 2010**

Members attending: Debbie Smith (chair), Rich Sorensen, Tom Wittenberg, John Massey, Brad Klein, Sam Riley, Alan Grant, Bob Beichner, Bruce Pencek, and Jack Finney

Agenda: Agenda for the meeting included three items: Approval of minutes of September 3 2010, research leave appointments, and Commission Chairs report to Dr. Steger and Dr. McNamee.

Approval of minutes of September 3, 2010

The minutes of the CFA meeting on September 3, 2010, were approved without change.

Research Leave

Jack Finney reported that the language for research leave, including study research leave and research assignment, in the Faculty handbook was in need of revision. Other peer universities were using the term “sabbatical leave” instead of research leave. The proposed new language was to make the provisions clear to faculty and in sync with current practice. Faculty will be eligible for research leave after six continuous years of service. Faculty will be eligible to apply during the sixth year of service and research leave will be approved contingent on completing the sixth year. Clarification will also be made on the eligibility of faculty members in tenure-track positions who have requested an extension of the tenure clock.

Jack further reported that faculty members are encouraged to participate in competitive fellowship opportunities such as Fulbright scholarship and grants from federal and private agencies to support their research leave. The faculty handbook does not adequately address the permissibility of these and similar stipends, especially when faculty members are on research assignment with full pay. The university strives to be consistent with state policies and current language is unnecessarily restrictive. New language will therefore be proposed to allow faculty members to receive modest stipends to provide compensation for living expenses, travel, relocation, and other miscellaneous expenses involved in research leave. Faculty on research leave may continue to be involved in consulting as allowed by the Faculty Handbook. Discussion of proposed wording resulted in several suggestions for edits. Revised materials will be on the agenda for the October 15, 2010 CFA meeting.

Commission Chairs Reports to Dr. Steger and Dr. McNamee

Debbie Smith reported on the meeting of commission chairs with Drs. Steger and McNamee. The purpose of the meetings was to inform them of key issues to be addressed in the various commissions during the current academic year. Debbie reported on a number of topics for this year, including the research leave policy, the consulting and conflict of interest policy, and the teaching evaluation task force progress.

New Business

Promotion and continued appointment process for library and extension faculty

Bruce Pencek informed the CFA members of the upcoming need to address the process for promotion of library and extension faculty who are on the continued appointment track. Due to reduced numbers of faculty on continued appointments, there are too few faculty members to constitute a university-level committee. The need for a new process has been identified and the library faculty have been engaged in discussions of alternatives. The issue will be on a future agenda for CFA.

Recorder: Maxwell Awando