

Faculty Handbook Committee
Minutes

Date: November 30, 2005
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Dolan, E244
Attendance: Bob, Marcy, Klaus, Dwight, Brenda, Jackie. Guest: David La Guardia

This was the fourth meeting of the 2005-2006 academic year.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.
2. David LaGuardia was present to report on his discussion of the committee's questions with Barbara Leukart, one of the university lawyers. Her initial response was that it was probably not appropriate for her to get involved in answering questions from faculty because it could be a conflict of interest. She recommended that the administration should enforce and support the handbook and work with the faculty in this regard. She was puzzled by some issues in the handbook. There are no definitions for part-time, visiting, or adjunct faculty. There may also be ways other types of faculty might be added who don't fall under the four ranks.
3. David remarked that he hoped the Handbook Committee wouldn't be a force to keep us in the "dark ages." He said the handbook should enable us to be sure it does what it is supposed to do, but allows us to use ingenuity and creativity to expand the handbook, as well. In terms of contract faculty, for instance, other institutions have been able to accommodate them. He warned that the committee should not watch over the document with a fundamentalist perspective, thereby prohibiting dynamism, creative change and vision.

The committee will meet with administrators on Dec. 5.