

Minutes of the meeting of Faculty Handbook Committee on October 11, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in the Slovak Room of Grasselli Library.

Present: Ruth Connell, Matt Berg, Mark Waner, Jeff Johansen, Sheri Young

We discussed whether or not members of the committee that go on leave should be able to appoint their own replacement. The context of the discussion was that Diana Taylor is on leave Fall semester, 2017, and she asked another faculty member to stand in for her on the committee for Fall 2017 without discussing it with the committee before making the offer. On one occasion in the past, a member on leave asked the committee if an outgoing member of the committee could serve in his place, and the committee agreed that this would be fine because the outgoing member had three years of history with the committee and would bring both experience and continuity as a fourth year, temporary stand-in. The committee voted on the issue: "In the present instance, should we seat a sixth person to account for a faculty leave, given we only have two continuing members this year)?" The motion did not carry.

We elected officers for this year's committee. Ruth Connell was willing to serve another year as chair, Jeff Johansen was willing to serve another year as secretary. They were unanimously confirmed in these positions. Mark Waner offered to serve as webmaster for the committee. He too was unanimously confirmed by the committee.

Meeting times were discussed. Friday 1:00-2:00 p.m. is the best time for meetings in Fall 2017 semester in that all members can attend, and was chosen as the meeting time. We have a target of meeting every two weeks to address the business before the committee. Our next meeting will be held on October 27th.

Nick Santilli has requested a meeting with the Faculty Handbook Committee to discuss the charge from the Board of Trustees to review all university governance documents. Ruth agreed to contact Dr. Santilli and see if he could meet on October 27th at 1:00 p.m. The committee wants to ask for his understanding of what the Board has mandated in terms of an institutional review of all university governance documents.

As future business immediately before the committee, we discussed the Faculty Parental Leave Policy, and the fact that it is not mentioned in the handbook. Faculty Council passed a resolution in April of 2014, and the faculty voted upon it as a recommendation to the administration. It never came before the Faculty Handbook Committee. FMLA mandates that all employees meeting certain conditions have up to 12 work weeks of leave for a medical condition or to care for an immediate family member. The Faculty Parental Leave Policy defines the leaves within the academic year, and it also allows for a stay of the tenure clock during that leave. It must be one of the early issues with which we deal.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.