

Statutes Committee Annual Report September 2014 – August 2015

2014-15 Committee Members:

Joe Hughes (ECE), Chair
Jeanne Balsam (GTRI/ELSYS)
Bryan Church (Business)
Chris James (GTRI/EOSL)
John Stein (Dean of Students)
Justin Eisenberg (Student)
Nazia Zakir (EHS, Faculty Executive Board Liaison)

The primary responsibility of the Statutes Committee is to review and consider proposed amendments to the *Faculty Handbook*. Additionally, the chair of the committee serves as a member of the Institute's Policy Steering Committee.

The committee met four times during 2014-15. The major actions of the committee are summarized below.

Faculty Handbook Updates

The committee reviewed proposed changes and presented the following recommendations for *Faculty Handbook* updates to the Faculty for approval.

Section 37.5.1 – Student Complaints Other Than Sexual Harassment Against a Faculty Member

This was one of the “transition sections” remaining from the major revision of the *Faculty Handbook* in 2013. The committee recommended that this item be added as section 4.7 of the Handbook, with the title “Complaints and Grievances” and revised wording. The recommended modifications were presented at the February 17, 2015 Faculty meeting and approved with minor changes. As part of the discussion, the committee was asked to work with the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Faculty Development to address additional situations, particularly graduate students who are also Institute employees.

Section 37.5.5 – Sanctions and Allocation of Support Services to Faculty Members

This was one of the “transition sections” remaining from the major revision of the *Faculty Handbook* in 2013. The committee recommended that this item be moved to section 3.1 of the *Faculty Handbook* with no changes. The recommendation was presented at the February 17, 2015 Faculty meeting and approved. As part of the discussion, the committee was asked to work with the Faculty Status and Grievance Committee to further clarify this section regarding appropriate sanctions short of termination.

Section 7 – Transitional Sections of the *Faculty Handbook*

With no remaining transitional items, the committee recommended that this section of the *Faculty Handbook* be deleted. The recommendation was presented at the February 17, 2015 Faculty meeting and approved.

Section 2.1 – Faculty Executive Board

The committee approved a proposal for modified language to clarify that academic faculty members will be elected by only academic faculty and similarly for research faculty members. The recommendation was presented for first reading at the April 21, 2015 Faculty meeting and approved; the second reading will occur at a 2015-16 meeting.

Section 3.2.1 – Research Faculty: Hiring and Promotion Guidelines

The committee approved a proposal for editorial changes related to promotion of research faculty, consolidating references to time-in-rank and reordering a list of criteria. The recommendation was presented at the April 21, 2015 Faculty meeting and approved.

Faculty Executive Board Task Force on Standing Committees

Following major revisions to the definition and organization of the faculty, the Faculty Executive Board appointed a task force to review standing committees' purposes, tasks, and membership to determine if changes are needed. Any recommended changes will likely require modifications to the *Faculty Handbook*, so the Statutes Committee met with the task force on January 15 to discuss the review process. As part of this discussion, the current description of the Statutes Committee was reviewed. It was agreed that no major changes were needed, although some clarifications to the existing wording were suggested. The committee chair participated in a Faculty Executive Board discussion in March 2015 of the task force's work. The task force review is still underway.

Submitted by Joseph Hughes, 2014-15 Chair