

Statutes Committee Meeting Minutes — January 15, 2015

Attended: Joe Hughes (chair), Jeanne Balsam, Chris James, John Stein, Justin Eisenberg (Student Representative), Nazia Zakir (Faculty Executive Board liaison)

Visitors: Ron Bohlander (Secretary of the Faculty), Martha Glover (Vice-Chair, Faculty Executive Board)

Joe Hughes called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm

MINUTES: the minutes of October 16, 2014 were approved

TRANSITION SECTIONS: Joe asked if any committee members had additional comments on the proposed changes to the “transition sections” in the Faculty Handbook. Hearing none, he indicated that he would prepare a formal proposal for the changes and circulate it to the committee for an email vote.

DISCUSSION WITH TASK FORCE: Joe reminded everyone that the primary purpose of this meeting was to have a discussion with the Faculty Executive Board task force reviewing the standing committees of the faculty. Ron Bohlander explained the goals of the task force, which focus on evaluating each committee with respect to issues such as (1) committee duties and whether they are under-stated or over-stated in the *Faculty Handbook*, (2) identifying duties that are listed as required, but that are not actually being done, and (3) size and composition of the committee. The task force will provide summaries of its evaluation back to the individual committees and provide feedback to the Faculty Executive Board and to the Statutes Committee regarding possible changes to committee descriptions in the *Handbook*.

In reviewing the current Statutes Committee description and other discussion, there seemed to be general agreement that no major changes were needed. Issues identified for possible revision included: (1) guaranteeing Research Faculty representation, ensuring (rather than being responsible for) archiving of past *Handbooks*, and clarifying the committee’s role in reviewing the *Handbook* relative to Institute and USG documents and policies.

The task force hopes to finish meeting with committees in the near future. A likely schedule would be to have the first set of changes completed (including Statutes Committee and FEB review) in time for a first reading at the April meeting of the Faculty and a second reading in October. Some items are likely to take longer, particularly with respect to the Benefits, Welfare, & Security Committee (which must be coordinated with the Staff Council) and a possible new committee focused on Post-docs.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 12, 1:45 pm

The meeting adjourned at ~3:00 pm