

## **Statutes Committee Meeting Minutes — March 12, 2015**

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

Visitors: none

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

**MINUTES:** the minutes of February 12, 2015 had previously been approved by an email vote.

**TRANSITION SECTIONS:** Joe reported that the *Faculty Handbook* changes resolving the remaining transition sections were approved at the February 17 Meeting of the Faculty. As part of that discussion, two issues were identified and referred back to the Statutes Committee for follow-up action:

- New section 4.7, Student Complaints and Grievances Against a Faculty Member – work with Susan Cozzens' office to address additional situations; e.g., students who are also Institute employees
- New section 3.1.12, Sanctions and Allocation of Support Services to Faculty Members – work with the Faculty Status and Grievance Committee to further clarify this section

**GT POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE:** Joe provided an update on recent actions by the GT Policy Steering Committee and the USG Board of Regents.

**GTRI PROMOTION COMMITTEE FEEDBACK:** Jeanne presented a proposal to modify Section 3.2.1 of the *Faculty Handbook* related to promotion of research faculty. The two changes are editorial in nature: (1) consolidating to a single section existing language related to time in rank for individuals with doctoral degrees, and (2) reordering the criteria for “demonstrated superior performance” to improve the logical organization and the structure of documentation prepared by those seeking promotion.

The proposal was approved by the committee. Section 3.2.1 is not part of the Statutes, so only a single reading of this proposal will be required at a Meeting of the Faculty.

**STANDING COMMITTEES TASK FORCE:** Joe summarized the discussion at a recent Faculty Executive Board meeting related to an initial draft of possible revisions to the *Faculty Handbook* defining the membership and responsibilities of standing committees. He encouraged committee members to review the draft, focusing on high-level issues such as overlaps or gaps in committee charges. The task force and FEB are continuing to work on this issue. Once a report is issued, the Statutes Committee may hold a working meeting during Summer term to discuss this topic.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.

### **Subsequent Action**

**FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISION:** Subsequent to the meeting, a proposal was received to modify section 2.1 of the *Faculty Handbook* regarding the election of Faculty Executive Board members. The proposal clarifies that academic faculty members will be elected by only academic faculty and similarly for research faculty members. The proposal was unanimously approved by the committee in an email vote. Section 2.1 is part of the Statutes, so two readings of this proposal will be required at Meetings of the Faculty.