

Academic Governance Oversight Committee
Minutes 10/17/06

Present: Mike McDaniel (chair); Julie Isaacson; Mitch Holifield; Len Frey; Bill Humphrey; Susan Allen; Joanna Grymes (secretary)

McDaniel shared the questions the AGOC had about its role in the process of changing the Faculty Handbook.

One question related to the minutes of the 026 Board of Trustee meeting that stated that the change in the current approved Faculty Handbook and the PRT process "was reviewed through the academic governance oversight process," as the change did not go through the AGOC and the process for changing the handbook at present seems unclear.

Dr. Allen stated that the PRT handbook change went through the process on page 13 of the current Handbook; changes in the Faculty Handbook are considered "Operational Procedures".

Points of discussion between the committee and Dr. Allen included:

How does the AGOC Committee know if the process has been followed appropriately? The AGOC Committee needs a mechanism to determine if the shared governance process has been followed. Minutes of committee meetings are the best evidence for following procedure. Is there a method for providing minutes in a timely fashion and how would committee chairs notified of the process? The AGOC is required to do an annual review of the shared governance committee. The AGOC could state that part of the review process is for the minutes to be posted. This committee needs to determine what procedures are necessary for that review process to occur.

McDaniel will talk with President's Office about the actual process of posting the minutes.

Dr. Allen suggested that the Handbook has new content and the outcomes may not work the way originally intended. Rather than trying to continuously patch the problems, it may be better to carefully think through a new mechanism for change. The mechanism for changing the Handbook will be important. It needs to be clearly thought through, can not end up in continuous loops, and should allow for agreement to be reached and implemented in a timely manner.

Another point of discussion was the issue of what is policy, what constitutes policy change, and how do the Oversight Committees fit into that.

Dr. Allen suggested the committee's challenge is to bring forth suggestions for an alternate Faculty Handbook change process. This committee needs to consider the AGOC process of how the Handbook is changed.

Member consensus was that as a shared governance committee the AGOC has the prerogative to recommend changes to the Faculty handbook. We will recommend on a process on how to change the Faculty Handbook.

Next meeting: 2:00 Oct 31

Meeting adjourned approximately 5:30.

Respectfully submitted:

Joanna Grymes
Secretary, AGOC