

College of Business

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Wednesday, September 30, 2015


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To: Dr. Tim Hudson, Chancellor
Arkansas State University

From: Jeffrey Pittman, Chair
ASU Shared Governance Oversight Committee



Subject: Shared Governance Proposal - 15 FA 02 – Academic Hearing Committee Changes



This fall, the ASU Faculty Handbook Committee proposed changes in the ASU Faculty Handbook regarding the composition of the Academic Hearing Committee. Under shared governance, this proposal was forwarded from the SGOC to the ASU Faculty Senate, Deans Council, and Chairs Council. After comments, the Faculty Handbook Committee reported back to the SGOC that all constituency groups involved supported the proposal. The Faculty Handbook Committee believes the universal support removes the necessity for a second round of review and comment, and asks the SGOC to forward this proposal to you as presented below. The SGOC sends this proposal to you for your consideration.

I. **Date:** August 31, 2015

II. **Sponsoring Constituent:** The proposed changes come from Mike McDaniel, the Faculty Handbook Committee.

III. **Statement of the Issue:** The current composition of the academic hearing committee includes non-tenured faculty, placing these individuals in a position of conflict of interest.

IV. Rational for the Proposal: The purpose of this proposal is to change language concerning the Academic Hearing Committee composition by removing the designation tenure-track. The proposal will make the language consistent with Section I.c.5 of the Faculty Handbook, and provide for better university governance.

The following is a comparison between the current ASU Faculty Handbook language, page 91, and the proposed language. If you are viewing this document in electronic format, you may need to adjust your Word settings for review (select “all markup”). You should be able to see the proposed new language underlined, and the proposed deleted language marked through with a line.

V.B.3. University level

V.B.3.a). Academic Hearing Committee

If the complaint remains unresolved after the College Grievance Committee action, the grievance may be sent to the chair of the Academic Hearing Committee (AHC) by any of the parties involved within 10 business days of receipt of the findings of the College Grievance Committee.

V.B.3.a)/(1). Composition:

At the end of each spring semester the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate will present to the Chancellor a list of the names of 21 ~~tenure-track~~/tenured full time faculty members (at least half of whom will have served during the previous academic year) who will serve two-year terms that are staggered to provide continuity to the committee. Terms will begin at the start of each academic year. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate will ensure that all colleges are represented when drawing up the list of names. Faculty selected will reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity at Arkansas State University. Faculty members who have been selected to serve on a College Grievance Committee may not simultaneously sit on the Academic Hearing Committee.

At the first committee meeting the AHC (21 members) will elect a chair who has recently served on the AHC. The chair of the AHC must be a tenured faculty member. When a grievance reaches the level of the AHC, the chair of the AHC will notify the Chancellor. The Chancellor will select from the committee of the whole (21 members), a subcommittee of seven to hear each grievance. The Chancellor will also select a tenured dean, from among the pool of academic deans, and a tenured department chair, from the pool of department chairs, to serve for each subcommittee empaneled. The AHC chair will serve as the nonvoting chair for all the nine member subcommittees empaneled. Each subcommittee will elect one of its members to prepare a record of the proceedings and deliberations and prepare a formal report of the committee findings. The Chancellor will select a replacement from the AHC for any member of a

subcommittee who must recuse him/herself or who will not be available for the duration of the hearing.

<p>Current ASU Faculty Handbook of Policies and Procedures Page 91 Existing wording as of September 2, 2015</p>
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At the end of each spring semester the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate will present to the Chancellor a list of the names of 21 tenure-track/tenured full time faculty members (at least half of whom will have served during the previous academic year) who will serve two-year terms that are staggered to provide continuity to the committee. Terms will begin at the start of each academic year. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate will ensure that all colleges are represented when drawing up the list of names. Faculty selected will reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity at Arkansas State University. Faculty members who have been selected to serve on a College Grievance Committee may not simultaneously sit on the Academic Hearing Committee.

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Final Report to the Chancellor

Proposed ASU Faculty Handbook of Policies and Procedures
Page 91
Changes are not noted below – this the proposed language only

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V.B.3.a)/(1). Composition:

At the end of each spring semester the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate will present to the Chancellor a list of the names of 21 tenured full time faculty members (at least half of whom will have served during the previous academic year) who will serve two-year terms that are staggered to provide continuity to the committee. Terms will begin at the start of each academic year. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate will ensure that all colleges are represented when drawing up the list of names. Faculty selected will reflect the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity at Arkansas State University. Faculty members who have been selected to serve on a College Grievance Committee may not simultaneously sit on the Academic Hearing Committee.

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