Fixed-Term Faculty Committee
2/18/2011

Present: Irons, Lee, Renner, Toews, Whisnant
Absent: DeSaix, Gilliland,
DTH Present

Susan Irons led the discussion in the absence of Chair DeSaix.

In response to the conversation with the Provost at the last meeting, there was agreement that it is important for this committee to keep on top of previous faculty council resolutions and recommendations and to provide more information on current issues.

Questions arose about the status of implementation of the new rank of Master Lecturer in the College. It appears to be in the provost’s office. The chair is urged to follow the process.

In preparation for the committee’s annual report, it is time to review previous faculty council resolutions and recommendations to determine what has been implemented and what has not. Best practices might also be assessed.

The committee reviewed the resolutions of 2003 and 2006 as well as the best practices from the report of this committee in 2009.

- Multi-year contacts had begun to be implemented in some parts of the university but have been largely suspended because of the budget situation. Apparently the College is awarding five-year contracts to senior lecturers.

- The college has made progress in instituting a career ladder. The committee definitely wants to see the new third-tier master lecturer rank come to fruition.

- Written standards on appointments and promotions had not been present in the College but now are being defined with senior lecturers. There are many gaps in the committee’s knowledge of standards in other schools and these gaps need to be filled. These criteria should be on the Provost’s website, but many schools have only tenure-track policies posted.

- There does not seem to be any standard for advance notice of non-renewal.

- It would be useful to have a list of professional development opportunities for fixed term faculty, especially including those from the Center for Faculty Excellence.

Discussion ensued about the possibly of doing a survey in Qualtrics to check with departmental chairs on resolutions and best practices with help from the Office of Faculty Governance. Endorsement by the Provost and chair of the faculty is needed.

Thanks to Anne Whisnant for notes which were written up by DeSaix. All mistakes are those of DeSaix.