

End-of-Year Report

Faculty Affairs Committee of the UAF Faculty Senate

May 2013

The faculty affairs committee dealt with three large issues and two smaller ones during the 2012/13 academic year.

Main Issues:

1. Blue Book revision

The Faculty Affairs Committee and the Unit Criteria Committee were tasked with revising the Blue Book which consists of two documents: the UAF Faculty Appointment and Evaluation Policies and the UAF Regulations for the Appointment and Evaluation of Faculty. The documents had been revised for many years and were out of date with the collective bargaining contracts and Board of Regents policies. A group of faculty and members of the Provost's staff had already worked on the documents to identify areas that needed to be revised. In addition, the provost presented the two committees tasked to work on it with her own comments, suggestions, and concerns. The goal was to produce one updated and integrated document. The requested timeline for the project was AY 2012.

In the fall, the two committees met with the Provost to clarify the task and discuss the Provost's concerns. The committee then divided the revisions to make work on the document more efficient. The Faculty Affairs Committee revised chapters on faculty appointment, termination, and sabbaticals; the Unit Criteria Committee worked on the chapter on faculty evaluations. The chairs of the committees (Cécile Lardon and Karen Jensen) collaborated and coordinated with each other to ensure consistency. The committee chairs also met with UNAC and UAFT representatives to discuss sections relevant to the CBA's.

At the end of AY 2012, a draft of a revised Blue Book has been produced and given to the Provost and union leaders for review, but some work on it remains. The main changes made to the Blue Book so far include:

- a. Merged the Policies and Regulations documents into one
- b. Clarified some language and definitions
- c. Updated information to be consistent with the CBAs and BOR policies and regulations
- d. Updated information based on what recent practice has been.

However, several major topics were not addressed in this revision of the Blue Book. Some of them will be handled separately and then included in the Blue Book at a later date.

- a. Changes in policies and regulations having to do with joint appointments. This Senate is appointing an ad hoc committee to deal with this issue during the fall 2013 semester.

b.

- A committee of outsiders who review an M.A. thesis or dissertation.
- For an M.A. committee the student selects one member, the Dean selects one, and the faculty select one.

Develop specific guidelines for students earning interdisciplinary degrees - they may not be officially associated with a department or program but may involve the faculty from the program the student is teaching in.

Develop policies and guidelines on three levels:

- Individual conduct
- Rules and support for departments and programs
- University infrastructure (e.g., tuition waivers for other universities to earn degrees)