

**Faculty Rights, Privileges and Responsibilities (FRPR) Committee
November 18, 2014
Minutes**

Present: Laura Hines, Kirk McClure, Amalia Monroe-Gulick, Jan Sheldon, and Jerry Mikkelson

Absent: Rick Hale, Nancy Kinnersley, Mario Medina, Jim Thorp

I. Core Curriculum Survey

The committee approved what we had developed at our meeting on November 4, 2014, and asked that this be sent to University Governance to be included in a survey to be sent to faculty regarding the Core Curriculum.

The items include the following:

Has the implementation of the Core Curriculum had an adverse effect on your enrollment in any of your courses?

Are you satisfied with the way courses are selected for inclusion in the Core?

Do you feel that the core has had an impact on your academic freedom in developing and teaching courses?

Does the Core infringe on your ability to assess students in the manner that you think is appropriate?

**Did you submit any course for approval in the Core that was rejected?
If so, was there pressure to change your course so that it could be included?**

**Have you had to restructure any of your courses to meet the requirements of the Core?
If so, would you describe this experience as positive or negative?**

The committee suggests that a comment section be added under each of these issues.

II. Excused absences for university activities

The committee continued their discussion of excused absences for university activities. Members reviewed the “Attendance Policy Research” that provided research and information on KU’s current policy as well as the policies from our AAU peers and other universities in Kansas. There was much discussion to ensure that we considered the relevant issues and concerns. The committee revised the statement that we had considered at the November 4th meeting to indicate a stronger statement that there should not be a policy that requires faculty to excuse absences for athletes or any student who is in a university-sponsored activity. We additionally added language regarding other AAU peer and in-state universities. Our statement to be sent to University governance is the following:

The committee strongly believes that requiring faculty to excuse absences for athletes or any student who is in a university-sponsored activity infringes on the faculty member’s academic freedom to determine how student performance in a course is evaluated. Requiring this overrides the faculty member’s ability to determine what constitutes an excused or unexcused absence. The committee feels that there should be no university rule that requires this. Moreover, the committee notes that the majority of KU’s AAU and in-state peer universities have reached the same conclusion. Additionally, the committee feels that athletes should be treated in the same manner as any student involved in a university-sponsored activity.

III. Inquiry from the university community

Faculty have contacted FRPR committee members asking when the university community will be notified as to whether the Provost will be retained (following his 5-year review). Jan will ask University governance this question.

IV. Social Media Policy

Because the Social Media Policy will affect faculty, the FRPR committee will ask University Governance about whether the FRPR committee will be allowed to comment on this policy before it is approved.

V. Faculty responsibilities regarding sexual harassment and discrimination

The committee began discussions on our fourth charge: “Review and summarize current Institutional Opportunity and Access (IOA) programs and procedures pertaining to faculty responsibilities regarding sexual harassment and

discrimination.” Jan provided some background information on this topic. In order to address this charge, the committee felt that we need the following information from University Governance:

An electronic copy of the current Sexual Harassment and Discrimination policy

Any mandates that are given to faculty regarding Sexual Harassment and Discrimination

Are faculty mandated reporters?

Jan will ask University Governance for this information, and the committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

VI. Approval of November 4, 2014 Minutes

Laura moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 4, 2014, with revised language regarding excused absences for university activities. Amalia seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Next Meeting: December 2, 2014 at 3 pm in 4001 Dole