

FRPR Committee FY2023 Final Report

FRPR made recommendations on some of the charges given to the committee for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The committee met three times (twice in Fall 2022 and once in Spring 2023) to discuss the charges and to discuss additional items from Faculty Senate President Nate Brunsell regarding the state of non-tenure track faculty at the University.

The committee's first meeting resulted in making recommendations to refer some of the charges, which it decided were beyond its purview, to other Faculty Senate committees that were more relevant. After the FRPR Chair met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in Fall 2022, FRPR committee charges were revised. Revised charges were presented to the committee and further discussed in Spring 2023.

In **Fall 2022**, we reviewed the revised **Excused Absences Policy** FRPR made recommendations on in the 2021-2022 academic year. After receiving a new draft of the policy and consulting with Professor of Engineering Susan Williams, the committee agreed to accept the policy as it was and not edit it further.

In **Fall 2022** and **Spring 2023**, the committee discussed concerns raised in 2020 by FRPR regarding the potential for use of the Student Survey of Teaching to compromise the confidentiality of instructor personnel records. After a brief discussion with Center For Teaching Excellence Associate Director Doug Ward and Vice-Provost Corinne Bannon, the committee determined that existing processes at AIRE as described by Vice-Provost Bannon were sufficient to protect faculty from any potential misuse of survey data. The potentially more consequential issue of low response rate of Student Surveys of Teaching was also discussed.

The committee also discussed the need for policies that govern faculty plagiarism of colleagues' syllabi and other teaching materials. After reviewing Intellectual Property policy Section 1.B and the Faculty Code of Right, Responsibilities, and Conduct Section IV.5.h, we determined that the existing policy was adequate. In addition, the committee recommended that colleagues be reminded that syllabi (and exams) are original work that should not be plagiarized and that there are existing avenues available to share this work with one another.

In **Fall 2022 and Spring 2023**, the committee discussed how best to explore the state of rights and privileges of non-tenure track faculty. Instead of gathering more data on the situation at KU, we decided the best approach would be to explore and recommend "best practices" for policies and practices regarding non-tenure track faculty. After consultation with Faculty Affairs and conducting extensive research on policies and practices at peer and other institutions, we provided a report on the committee's work and recommended that, due to the scale of the issue, an ad hoc committee be formed to provide policy recommendations in academic year 2023-2024 on non-tenure track faculty rights and privileges.

The FRPR Chair was nominated by FacEx to participate in the Teaching Professor Ad Hoc committee being facilitated by Faculty Affairs, which is charged to provide policy recommendations by end of 2023.

The committee discussed a draft policy from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences regarding the creation of online courses. Though no specific recommendation was made on that policy draft, it was agreed that such policies do fall under the purview of FRPR given implications for faculty autonomy.

Recommendations for the 2023-2024 FRPR Committee and Potential Charges

1. Continue to monitor and review policies regarding creation of online courses.
2. Continue to collaborate with Faculty Affairs and other relevant units on work regarding non-tenure track faculty.
3. Explore solutions to the low response rate of the Student Survey of Teaching and its implications for HLC requirements and related faculty responsibilities to provide quality education.