

Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Annual Report 2006-2007

1. ROUTINE BUSINESS

As part of its regular duties this year, the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) met 25 times in regular sessions during the academic year 2006-2007. In addition, FEC convened two meetings of the Committee of Committees (COC) and one Faculty Caucus (i.e., faculty-only meeting). FEC ran elections and sought sabbatical replacements for standing faculty committees, and coordinated willingness-to-serve nominations for faculty to serve on various ad hoc groups. FEC continued to serve as observers at the Board of Trustees meetings. FEC worked with other faculty committees and with members of the administration on changes to the *Faculty Handbook*. Finally, FEC further revised its operating code.

Some remarks on routine business:

A. *Committee of Committees*. Some faculty expressed their surprise to FEC that Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) Susan Kress responded in writing to the minutes of the fall COC meeting, and on the floor of the faculty after the COC report was read at the May meeting. It has always been FEC's position that shared governance requires a dialectic structure, whatever the form of the dialogue itself. Furthermore, given that administrators are currently not invited to COC meetings, misunderstandings and miscommunications are possible; FEC would be remiss in its duty not to afford administrators the opportunity, should they wish to take it, to offer responses and issue corrections.

In her response to the December COC minutes, the VPAA proposed an additional meeting between administrators and appropriate committee chairs to discuss and assess mutual work and make recommendations for improvement. FEC is open to considering such a structure, which would offer a more direct and expedient system of reporting than currently exists. Nevertheless, FEC believes that the faculty should retain its provisions for meeting to speak candidly among itself. Toward this end, it seems likely that the practice of convening the COC will continue.

In his report of COC meetings, delivered at the May 16, 2007, Faculty Meeting, the Chair of FEC, Dan Curley, described a dispute between CAFR and Human Resources over the release of a document deemed by CAFR to be pertinent to one of its investigations. The Chair of FEC said:

“The dispute was subsequently resolved at a meeting between CAFR, the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Director of Human Resources; concerning this meeting CAFR reported that it has

accepted the [a]dministration's rationale for keeping the document sealed."

This statement caused some confusion and anger for several faculty members, including the Chair of CAFR, who asked the Chair of FEC via email for clarification. One source of the confusion was the (admittedly but not deliberately) misleading phrase, "accepted the Administration's rationale." The phrase was intended to mean only that CAFR understood the rationale behind the decision to withhold the document; it was *not* intended to mean that CAFR accepted or otherwise approved of the decision itself. Another source of confusion was the word "resolved," which suggested to some that the matter had been not only concluded, but also concluded to mutual satisfaction.

The Chair of FEC regrets and apologizes for any misunderstandings that have arisen from his statement. (For CAFR's own response to the dispute, please see that committee's 2006-2007 Annual Report.)

B. Faculty Caucus. The Vice-President for Academic Affairs had asked that she and the Dean of the Faculty be invited to the Faculty Caucus in March; the Caucus was called by FEC on behalf of the Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR) to discuss CAFR's proposal to change Part One, Article X of the *Faculty Handbook* ("Discipline of Tenured Faculty"). While the attendance of administrators is provided for in the FEC operating code, in this instance, however, FEC ultimately decided that the interests of the faculty were better served at that moment by calling a faculty-only meeting — a decision made neither easily nor capriciously. FEC did read an email by the VPAA at the meeting, and the VPAA herself offered comments on CAFR's proposal at the March 30, 2007, Faculty Meeting.

C. Elections to Standing Committees. This year was one of the most difficult in

number 6 and Article XI, Section A, number 1, letter a). FEC presented this language on CAPT's behalf at the October 2006 Faculty Meeting, with a waiver of the 30-day layover period moved and approved. The motion to amend the *Handbook* carried, and the Board of Trustees ultimately approved the new language at its meeting of February 22, 2007.

CAFR sought advice from FEC on its proposal for Part One, Article X of the *Handbook*; and FEC participated in a special summer working group on Part Six; on all of this work please see number 2, below.

2. FACULTY HANDBOOK ISSUES

FEC offered comments on CAFR's proposal to change Part One, Article X of the *Faculty Handbook* ("Discipline of Tenured Faculty"). At the same time, FEC agreed with the VPAA and the DOF that the changes dovetailed with language regarding anti-harassment

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That said, FEC remains reasonably confident about moving an updated *Handbook*, with a revised Part Six, for adoption in the near future. This summer the Chair of FEC joined the Chairs of CAPT and CAFR in meeting with the VPAA, the DOF, the Director of HR, the Assistant Director for Equal Employment Opportunity and Workforce Diversity, and the Executive Director of the President's Office to discuss revisions to Part Six. Although the work of this group, as of this writing, remains incomplete, and although the current draft has yet to be reviewed by all members of FEC, CAPT, and CAFR (among others), FEC hopes that the completed 2007-2008

5. DOS/DOSA SPLIT AND STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES

The Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) struck a subcommittee with representation by FEC to study and report on the restructuring of the Offices of the DOS and the DOSA (including the creation of the Office of Student Academic Services). The subcommittee met once toward the end of spring semester and will resume its work in the fall of 2007.

6. COURSE RELEASE TASK FORCE

The Course Release Task Force, struck by FEC and the Dean of the Faculty (DOF) and with FEC representation, completed its work and released its report to the DOF and the faculty at large.

Mark Huibregtse, Math and Computer Science, IPPC Vice-chair
Mehmet Odekon, Economics, IPPC representative
Viviana Rangil, Foreign Languages and Literatures
Paty Rubio, Foreign Languages and Literatures
Mason Stokes, English