To: The Faculty Assembly  
From: The Faculty Affairs Committee  
Subject: Annual Report of the SLA Faculty Affairs Committee, 2005-2006  
Date: April 19, 2006

Dennis Bingham, Wan Ning Bao, Subir Chakrabarti, Jason Eberl, Maureen Minnielli and Robert Sutton, who is also a member of the agenda council, served as voting members of the School of Liberal Arts’ Faculty Affairs Committee during the academic year 2005-2006. Former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Catherine Souch served as the ex-officio member of the committee in the fall semester and the present Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Marianne Wokeck served in that capacity during the spring semester. Dennis Bingham served as the secretary of the committee during the year and took the minutes. Jason Eberl acted as the secretary when Dennis was not present at a couple of the meetings.

The committee’s first business this year was to revise the salary policy of the school. This was leftover business from last year. The committee met with the Dean and discussed the proposed revisions to the salary policy. The faculty assembly then voted unanimously to accept the revised salary policy recommended by the committee. The revised policy will go into effect starting this year.

The committee then approached some issues brought over by the P&T Committee. After consultations with the Chair of the P&T Committee, Ted Mullen, the committee proposed an addition to the P&T guidelines of the school. There is thus now a procedure in place to select an individual who will step into the role of the chair in the case of the promotion to Professor of a department chair who is an Associate Professor. This addition to the P&T guidelines was unanimously approved by the Faculty Assembly in March.

Other promotion and tenure issues were also discussed. Thus the committee has proposed two amendments to the bylaws, one concerns the size of the P&T committee. It proposes to increase the committee’s size from five to seven members. The other amendment recommends that there be representation in the P&T committee from the ranks of Senior Lecturers in promotion cases involving lecturers.

In addition to dealing with these P&T issues the committee, as is the case every year, selected the student for the School’s Faculty Medal of Distinction. The committee also selected the outstanding faculty, lecturer and associate faculty.

There was one issue that the committee discussed and left unresolved since the committee thought it needs a little more discussion. In the P&T guidelines, in the sample letter to external evaluators the last sentence of the sample letter states, “The standards for evaluation of the quality of the candidate’s research (teaching or service) are to be comparable to IUPUI’s peer institutions.” One of the department chairs pointed out that this sentence can cause confusion when a letter writer is unfamiliar with IUPUI. The committee has discussed a couple of options for clarifying this a little further. One option
is to list a number of IUPUI’s peer institutions. The other option is to take out the sentence and replace it with language that suggests that the standards for evaluation require a mix of research, teaching and service that are consistent with a large urban campus.

Submitted to the Faculty Assembly
By
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