

Resolution to Create a Joint Committee on Transdisciplinary and Inter Disciplinary Issues

Approved by Faculty Senate Executive Committee 02/19/19

Whereas the Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence Evaluation Committee, which was established by the Faculty Senate, made a set of recommendations to the Faculty Senate in its Final Report, including the establishment of a standing joint committee by the Provost and the Faculty senate to govern the TAE system. It further recommended that “Tenure and promotion be the first issue taken up by the new standing joint committee on TAEs” and that “The new standing joint committee on TAEs provide specific written guidance about the role(s) of TAEs in setting hiring priorities and participating in hiring committees.”

Whereas the Joint Task Force on Transdisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Work, which was established by the Provost’s Office and the Faculty Senate, made key recommendations in its report including that the University “Establish clear guidance for the consideration of transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary work in tenure and promotion decisions” and “Develop new and improved current processes for facilitating interdisciplinary teaching and degree programs, including mechanisms for incentivizing faculty, departments, and deans to contribute interdisciplinary offerings.”

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate establish a temporary standing joint committee with the Provost’s Office with the following charge:

- 1) Consider the recommendations of the Transdisciplinary Area of Excellence Evaluation Committee,
- 2) consider the recommendations of Joint Task Force on Transdisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Work,
- 3) specifically consider the issues and concerns about tenure and promotion highlighted by both reports,
- 4) identify additional issues or areas of concern with respect to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary programs, teaching, scholarship, and hiring practices, and
- 5) develop a charge for a possible permanent standing joint committee on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary issues.

Be it further resolved that the temporary standing joint committee will be established before the end of the Spring 2019 semester, complete its work by the end of the Fall 2019 semester, and that the Faculty Senate will consider establishing a permanent committee early in the Spring 2020 semester.