

Motion presented to Faculty Senate 5/10/11
Professional Standards Committee committee charge

Proposed revision of the charge of the PSC – changes in italics.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Revised Charge:

1. to consider all sides of issues involving professional conduct and to seek a resolution or to recommend appropriate action to assure high standards of professional conduct;
2. to report annually on the number of issues raised, the nature of the issues raised, and the procedures used in recommending resolution of redress.
3. *the committee will not consider cases which are matters of grievance of discipline under provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement or aspects of promotion, tenure, and renewal cases related to the substantive issues to be considered by the University Personnel Committees, such as composition of initiating personnel committees, adherence to proper procedures, the fairness of presentation of the case, or the weighing of factors by parties at the various stages of the personnel process. The committee may be concerned with the unprofessional conduct of faculty in the context of personnel cases.*

Original Charge:

1. in cases which are not matters of grievance of discipline under provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, to consider all sides of issues involving professional conduct, and to seek a resolution or to recommend appropriate action to assure high standards of professional conduct;
2. to report annually on the number of issues raised, the nature of the issues raised, and the procedures used in recommending resolution of redress.

Explanation:

The proposed change adds explicit language to the effect that the Professional Standards Committee must not become involved in ongoing personnel cases. The Faculty by-laws are quite clear that the personnel procedures are completely separate from the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate and its committees do not have a role in the personnel process.

Note that this charge does not preclude the PSC from doing what they are supposed to do if issues of faculty misconduct arise in connection with a personnel case. Suppose there were allegations of harassing behavior in the context of a personnel case. The PSC could investigate the issue and take whatever action is appropriate – for example a letter reprimanding a faculty member for their misconduct. This would be apart from the personnel case.