

The Faculty Senate at the University of Virginia
Wednesday, April 8, 2009 – 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Commonwealth Room, Newcomb Hall

Meeting Minutes

Edmund Kitch, Chair of the Faculty Senate, called the meeting to order. Mr. Kitch offered welcoming remarks and presented an overview of the agenda.

Brian Pusser, Chair of the Task Force on Authors' Rights and Scholarly Publications, gave an overview of the work and recommendation of the Task Force. The Task Force recommends that faculty members retain a non-exclusive, non-commercial copyright license in their scholarly articles. The reasons for this recommendation are explained in a *Memorandum on Scholarly Publications and Authors' Rights*. Professor Pusser thanked the members of the Task Force for their hard work on this initiative. Professor Pusser also gave a special thanks to Karin Wittenborg, University Librarian, and Madelyn Wessel, Special Advisor/Liaison to the General Council.

The memorandum describes the background of and reasons for the recommendation of the Task Force on Scholarly Publications and Author Rights. Similar resolutions have been adopted or are under consideration at institutions such as Harvard, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of California. A copy of the Memorandum and proposed resolution can be found on the Faculty Senate homepage by choosing "Documents & Reports," and then follow the prompts.

Madelyn Wessel gave a Power Point presentation that explained the issues involved regarding scholarly publications and authors' rights. As described in the Memorandum, "the topic generally is viewed to encompass copyright, authors' rights, open-access, the economics of scholarly publishing, and the technological challenges facing libraries and repositories".

Individual group discussions began after the Power Point presentation, with a group leader leading each discussion. The group leaders were Marti Snell, professor of education, Susan McKinnon, professor of anthropology, Ivan Login, professor of neurology, Dan Willingham, professor of psychology, Ann Hamric, professor of nursing, and Karin Wittenborg, University Librarian. After their discussions, the leader from each table reported back to Professor Pusser and the members of the Senate with their questions and concerns regarding the proposed resolution. The Executive Council will meet on April 13, and they will discuss the resolution further, considering proposed changes by the Senate. The resolution will be tabled until the next full Senate meeting on April 27, 2009, when a motion for approval of the document will be called for.*

* This matter was subsequently deferred to the fall of 2009.

Introduction of Revised Provost's Disciplinary Procedure Document and Introduction of Revised Faculty Senate Grievance Procedure Document

A copy of the revised Provost's Disciplinary Procedure document was distributed for review and discussion. A copy of the Provost's document and the Faculty Senate document can be found on the Faculty Senate website. Go to the site and choose "Documents & Reports," and follow the prompts.

Dr. Arthur Garson, Executive Vice President and Provost, recognized his staff for their hard work on this document. Dr. Garson gave an overview of the changes that were made to the document. The most important change in the document is to make the formation of a peer review panel automatic in every case, subject to the right of the affected faculty member to decline that option, Dr. Garson said.

A vote to approve the changes to the Provost's Disciplinary Procedure document was unanimous.

Herbert Tucker, Chair of the Faculty Senate Grievance Committee, discussed proposed changes to the Senate's grievance document. The Provost's grievance document and the Senate's document are designed to work together and to be consistent with each other. The changes to the document make it clearer how to pursue steps for a faculty grievance. The important substantive change to the Faculty Senate Grievance Procedure document relates to the clause in the document that says that a Hearing Panel for a grievant must be called if the grievant requests one. The change would take this option out and give the Grievance Committee discretion to decide whether or not a hearing panel should be used.

There was considerable conversation about this change. The Senate was asked to send further comments to Professor Tucker. The document will be revised to reflect the Senate's suggestions. The revised Faculty Senate Grievance Procedure document will be brought to a vote at the April 27, 2009 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by David Kovacs, Secretary of the Faculty Senate