

SMC Academic Senate Personnel Policies Committee meeting minutes
Tuesday, October 17, 2017
1:30pm to 3:00pm
Library 275

Present: Andrew Nestler (chair), Sherri Lee-Lewis (vice chair), Trish Burson, Tracey Ellis, Mitch Heskell, Lisa Maier, Moya Mazorow

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm.

II. There were no public comments.

III. Announcements: The next meetings are scheduled for November 14 and 28 in the same room. The Sabbaticals AR has just gone into effect, and the Fall 2017 sabbatical recipients will be the first to be evaluated under the terms of the newly revised AR. Nate is trying to identify two more faculty members to serve on this committee.

IV. The minutes of the September 19 meeting were approved by all except Lisa who arrived afterward (moved by Mitch, seconded by Moya).

V. AR 3211.3 (Department Chairperson – Tenure and Selection): The committee finalized its draft of this AR. The first paragraph was slightly rewritten, in particular to make clear that chairs are not elected but are appointed. The reference to AR 3210 was removed from section 2, as it was deemed unnecessary.

Sections 8 and 9 now simply specify the two situations that may result in a special election, and the following newly created section 10 details the timeline for such an election. Much of this timeline information appears in section 9 of the AR as it is currently written, but the timeline information should apply to the scenario of section 8 as well. As a result, section 3 was rewritten to refer to sections 8, 9 and 10.

The committee added to section 5 that the vote count of a department chair election should remain confidential. For the past three years, the practice has been that vote counts are not made public. Knowledge of the vote count could harm unity within a department. Keeping the vote count confidential can encourage faculty members to run for department chair, reducing the risk of disappointment or embarrassment following the election. The winner of an election is not necessarily appointed department chair. Other changes in this AR keep the Academic Senate President in the loop, so that there should be increased and sustained trust in the election process. The AR adds a level of checks and balances to the integrity of the selection process, in that the AS President receives the results of the vote count and, in conjunction with the appropriate Vice-President or designee, forwards one or more names to the Superintendent/President.

A motion to approve the draft was moved by Lisa and seconded by Sherri, and it passed unanimously.

VI. Sherri handed out copies of board policies that are under revision as part of a statewide effort to make some board policy and academic regulation language and numbering more uniform. We were given copies of proposed BP 7120 Recruitment and Selection, BP 7212 Temporary Faculty, BP 7355 Retirement, and BP 7360 Discipline and Dismissal, Academic Employees. The committee chair will present these drafts to Nate.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm (moved by Mitch, seconded by Sherri, approved unanimously).