Professional Ethics and Responsibilities Committee

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

12:45-2:05pm

HSS 261

In attendance: Brian Rajski, Chair/Secretary; Valerie Narey; Ian Colmer; Tristan Johnson

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

**II. Public Comments**

**III. Discussion Items**

1. **Review of 2017-18 Goals and Accomplishments**

Brian reviewed for the new members the recent accomplishments and focus of the committee, explaining the creation of *SMC Ethics* and last year’s revisions to the model syllabus.

1. **Model Syllabus Revision**

Brian explained to the committee the multiple model syllabi that were currently in circulation. As soon as he had collected them, he would present them to the committee, which would discuss how to combine and improve them.

1. **Selecting First *SMC Ethics* Topic**

Ian suggested discussing gifts from students, but it was pointed out that this topic had been covered numerous times. Tristan suggested teachers assigning their own books for profit, but Brian argued this might be taken as a personal attack on specific colleagues and might cause departmental conflict. Brian suggested that sometime over the next year the committee should discuss how the new funding formula might create various pressures to lessen or change standards in order to bring the college money. Brian also suggested that the committee might make an exception to its student focus and discuss how to be a civil colleague as the school enters into Pathways redesign, which might allow some departments to have significant impacts on other departments. Those were ambitious topics to be saved for a later date. Valerie suggested treating the syllabus as a contract with students. Ian suggested teachers who attempt to lessen their workload by scaring away students or not adding students at the start of the semester, or the various cell phone policies instructors have. This conversation led to an agreement to focus the main piece on the different ways teachers approach their syllabus, from being a contract with students to a welcome letter inviting students into the class. Valerie agreed to start the piece and get further input from Brian at a late point. The committee also agreed to focus the sidebar on what instructors do with their first day of class. Tristan volunteered to write the sidebar.

**IV. Action Items**

**a) Committee Secretary:** The committee agreed for Valerie to replace Brian as the committee secretary now that he is the chair.

**VI. Adjournment**