**Faculty Affairs Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 26**, **2025 6:00 p.m.**

**Dobski Conference Room, Bone Student Center**

*Call to Order, 6:00 pm*

*Roll Call*: Present: Kevin Edwards (chair), Sheryl Henry, Steven Peters, Benjamin

 Stiers, and Craig McLauchlan (Provost representative).

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After discussion of minor edits proposed by Senator Edwards, the minutes of March 5, 2025 were approved by the 3 voting members. Senator Stiers abstained from the vote since he was absent from the March 5th meeting.

Agenda items discussed:

1. **Additional revisions of Policy 3.3.4** Non-Tenure Track Faculty Classifications and Performance Evaluation were discussed. The new revisions proposed involve striking the first sentence in the second paragraph on page 1, “No non-tenure track faculty titles have rank assigned.” and adding “Non-tenure track faulty titles are not assigned academic rank.” The second modification was to the description of Emeriti Faculty on page 2. The proposed changes were to more strictly define the retention of this title to retired ISU faculty returning to provide a service the University. The new description is as follows, “Tenured faculty who retire with rank from Illinois State University and are awarded Emeriti status under Policy 3.2.10, and return to the university to provide services related to teaching, research, or public service, retain their professorial title with the added designation of the word emeritus/emerita/emeritum/emerit.” All four voting members of the committee approved these changes.
2. **Slates for elections to 2025-6 external committees.** Senator Edwards supplied an Excel file along with a written document that shows the names of potential faculty to fill vacancies in the external committees within the University. Most of the committee have just enough volunteers to fill the impending vacancies that start at the end of this academic year. The number of volunteers is not larger than the vacancies. The only committee that has more than one volunteer to fill a vacancy is the Team Excellence Award Committee. Therefore, at this time only the TEA Committee would require an actual vote of the slated name to elect one member. Senator Edwards has asked that the committee reach out to their constituents to determine in more volunteers can be obtained before the Slate is given to the Executive Committee.
3. **Administration News Report of March 21, 2025**. Senator Edwards brought to the committee’s attention the news report supplied by Provost Yazedjian and Associate VP Glen Nelson regarding the state of the contract negotiations between the United Faculty of ISU (UFISU) and ISU administration. Senator Edwards was concerned that the message supplied was designated as a “Report” by the administration. He felt that this may not be appropriate. In addition, Senator Henry added her concerns that the message was biased. Senator Peters acknowledged that it is perhaps not appropriate to have this discussion unless someone from ISU administration, that is part of the negotiations, should be present for this discussion. Associate VP McLauchlin acknowledged that he is not part of the negotiating team. At this time the matter was dropped, and no further discussion occurred.
4. **Continued discussion of Policy 1.8** **Integrity in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities.** In the remaining time the committee continued a discussion of Policy 1.8, which had been started during the previous committee meeting on March 5, 2025. Associate VP McLauchlin acknowledged that a considerable number of groups in the University are looking at the proposal to ensure that it aligns with the previous federal administration under President Biden and that if might be best to table this discussion until further input is given by these groups. One concern mentioned is that the language in the policy needs to protect faculty against weaponization of works or publication, which was thought might be a real possibility and that a complete look at the research endeavor at ISU is necessary.

Adjourned 6:50 pm