

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Handbook Committee

Date: March 21, 2014
Time: 11:10 a.m.
Place: Dolan, E244
Attendance: Kolesar, Norris, Taylor, Wirkus
Guests: From the Elections Committee: Ruth Connell, Leslie Curtis, David Shutkin

This was the seventh meeting of the Faculty Handbook Committee for the academic year 2013-14.

The meeting was requested by David Shutkin, chair of the Elections Committee, following a vote of Faculty Council. The members of the Election Committee were seeking input from the Faculty Handbook Committee about whether we should continue to allow administrators with faculty rank to vote in faculty elections. Concerns had been raised because administrators had voted – along with the rest of the faculty – on a proposal to change health care benefits even though they, as administrators, had no choice in their own plan.

Faculty Handbook Committee members reminded the group that the Handbook is clear that administrators are faculty members with all rights pertaining to faculty, including the vote. They also reminded everyone that in order to change this policy, the Faculty Handbook would need to be amended.

Two other considerations were raised:

- Administrators are oftentimes in their positions temporarily and intend to return to the faculty.
- Disenfranchisement is a serious measure and would perpetuate an “us vs. them” mentality.

The Faculty Handbook Committee members agreed that, for those reasons, they were not in favor of an amendment to take the vote away from administrators.

The members of the Elections Committee expressed their appreciation for the meeting and indicated that they would take this information back to other Elections Committee members and to the Faculty Council.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

