

University Constitution Committee Minutes
February 6, 2012, 3 – 5 p.m.
Pugh Hall Oral History Conference Room

Attendance:

Barbara Wingo
Margaret Temple-Smith
John Leavey
Paul Ortiz
Jill Herndon
Patricia Morgan (by phone)
Angel Kwolek-Folland
Sue Alvers

Paul Ortiz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes from January 2012 were approved with revisions.

Dr. Scott Nygren, Chair of the Faculty Senate, asked the Constitution Committee to review and advise him on two constitutional questions.

Tenure Probationary Period

Is deciding the tenure probationary period one of the responsibilities delegated to the Faculty Senate as part of “criteria for tenure,” or is it part of an administrative determination of eligibility for tenure that does not require a Senate decision?

- A long discussion ensued before a recommendation was made. It was noted that this does not affect the colleges’ bargaining unit. Tenure probationary period falls under university policies which do not go before the Faculty Senate. The constitution language is vague and may need to be clarified.
- The Constitution Committee recommendation:
 - The current language indicates tenure probationary period policies are not under the Faculty Senate purview. If the Faculty Senate wishes to change or clarify the language, it should refer to a relevant committee.

Replacement vs Proxy

How long does “temporary absence” need to be to qualify for a replacement rather than proxy, given that replacements are allowed while proxies are disallowed?

- The committee reviewed the relevant part of the constitution and decided that the constitution is clear on this matter.
 - “Absence from three consecutive meetings of the Senate constitutes resignation from the Senate, **except** that a Senator whose term is interrupted by a temporary absence from the University may be replaced by a temporary senator”.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27 at 3 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.