

2017

Annual Report

Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty

Submitted by Gillian Turgeon (Chair)

In October the Chair met with the Dean of Faculty, the Associate Dean of Faculty, and several graduate students to discuss GPSA Resolution 7 regarding Supervisor-Student Relationships. The recommended revisions set forth in the May 2016 AFPSF were reviewed. It was agreed that another negative vote in the Senate would be a major setback and that additional work would be required to create a more effective policy that would be approved.

On November 7 the full committee discussed Student Assembly Resolution 57 '*Towards a more Inclusive learning Experience*', submitted by Black Students United and the Student Assembly. The SA argued that all employees, academic or otherwise, should receive training in diversity issues and that this be tied to payroll and evaluations. Committee members asked what policies were already in place i.e., does Resolution 57 fall under existing university policies, what is the hierarchy of responsibility, what should we consider, and what do we recommend? Committee members asked if surveys were available addressing concerns raised in Resolution 57 (e.g., Pulse)? Could we get the original data? We discussed ways to make policies highly accessible and easily visible to all University members, from faculty to undergrads. Among the ideas were introducing policies at the beginning of all classes, when faculty were hired, using theater sessions to highlight bias, incentives, and having annual conversations etc.

On April 13, 2017 the Dean of Faculty, the Associate Dean of Faculty, and the AFPS Chair Turgeon met with GPSA students Anna Waymack, Bryce Smythe, Nate Stetson, and Nate Rogers to discuss to discuss the revised draft of GPSA Resolution 14 '*Consensual Relationships Policy Revisited*.' We discussed the frustrations of the GPSA that a revised Romantic Policy had not moved forward. Discussed the idea of having the GPSA present their resolution/policy desires to the faculty senate in Fall 2017. There was agreement that the policy should be more widely publicized and disseminated than is presently the case. (Something that seems to be problematic all ethics-related policies.) It should be sent directly to each entering graduate student by the graduate school dean and to each new faculty member by the college dean. Faculty should be reminded of the policy on a regular basis by their deans, and should receive a reminder when signing on to be a chair or minor member of a graduate student's committee. Discussed the possibility that a non-faculty person could serve as the "point person" mentioned in the resolution.

On May 4, 2017 the full committee met with Anna Waymack and Nate Stetson to discuss the just-approved GPSA Resolution 14 (*Consensual Relationships Policy Revisited*). A website was establish to facilitate study over the summer so that things could move along quickly in September.