

Report from IFC meeting on October 21st 2005

The meeting was devoted, at least in theory, to setting an agenda for this year's committee, but I think it's fair to say that was only partially accomplished. It was agreed that the committee would take up the issue of the roles, responsibilities, and privileges of what are increasingly coming to be referred to as "professional track" (or non-tenure track) faculty. That effort is underway with a view to reaching closure by the end of the current academic year. There also was some sentiment expressed to revisit Executive Order 6A to explore the possibility of limiting the right to comment on tenure and/or promotion cases to those holding the rank to which the candidate would be promoted or above. However, it remains unclear to me whether this actually got added to our agenda.

There was only one action item, and that concerned approving a draft privacy statement for the Faculty Accomplishment System to clarify who has access to the system and who may grant access to it. After a considerable period of rewriting, a draft was unanimously approved. However, no one remembered to write down the final version, so the issue had to be revisited via email. I think that we now have a privacy statement, though I have received no word as to the final outcome of the email tally.

In its meeting with President Floyd, the committee received reports on the status of his Fixed Tuition Plan (unlikely to be proposed). President Floyd also outlined some other ideas for ensuring tuition predictability and stability, though these are very preliminary and not for release beyond the committee in their present form. Further, he updated the committee on the status of various searches. For my money, the most important part of our discussion with the President concerned his comments regarding the exclusion of domestic partners from the Metropolitan Life Long-Term Care Policy. Despite his unmistakable sympathy for an inclusionary response, he made it clear that this could not be finessed and would have to be taken to the Board of Curators, where it would not be supported. As a result, he was unwilling to take a proposal forward and offered to meet with interested parties to explain his position on the matter.