

August 11, 2023 Communication regarding certain University Senate Committees

As we approach the new academic year, we would like to **bring to your attention some changes to the operations of certain faculty senate committees** while negotiations for a first faculty contract are ongoing between the University and the faculty union, FAM/AAUP-AFT.

As you may know, now that the faculty are represented by FAM, the Union is the **exclusive** representative for faculty regarding wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment for represented faculty. **This means that the University has a legal obligation to deal with the Union on issues relating to those subjects, and may not engage or solicit input directly from individual faculty members.**

For that reason, the following committees will not meet pending faculty contract negotiations:

- **Benefits**
- **Faculty Research**
- **Faculty Welfare**
- **Center for Teaching Excellence**

Additionally, the functions of certain committees will be adjusted as follows:

- **Faculty Rights and Responsibilities** will not advise University administration regarding policy, but will continue to review disciplinary actions;
- **Promotion and Tenure Committee** will not advise University administration regarding policy, but will continue to review and make recommendations about faculty promotion and tenure applications;
- **Awards and Recognition Committee** will continue to review and nominate candidates for honorary degrees, but will not review, nominate or make recommendations regarding faculty awards and honors; and
- **Fiscal Priorities and Budget Committee** will meet, but will limit its discussions to budgetary items and topics that do not involve compensation, benefits, or other terms and conditions of employment for bargaining unit faculty members.

As some of these adjustments may limit faculty grants and awards that have a direct impact on research and teaching, **the administration has reached out to FAM to discuss whether the parties can reach an agreement regarding a process for the functions of certain of these committees to continue.**

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Should anything change regarding the functions of the above committees, you will be notified accordingly.

Best to you--and thank you for all you do,

Liz



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