

Academic Personnel Committee

Meeting Minutes • September 6, 2023

Meeting Agenda

Fall 2023: Eric Baker, Connie Fulmer, Jamie Hodgkins, Kendall Hunter, Michael Jenson, Lin Liang, Lonnie Schaible, Jeffrey Schreder, Christoph Stefes, Kat Vlahos

The primary agenda of the meeting was to address several key issues related to administrative policies and the involvement of third parties in handling sensitive information. The participants were expected to evaluate the efficiency and transparency of these processes and discuss potential improvements.

Discussion Topics

Third Party Engagements: Participants expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of transparency regarding the results of collaborations with third-party organizations. There was a significant concern about how these third parties managed the personal information provided by the organization and the overall impression left on these third parties. The lack of a mechanism to track and review the outcomes of these engagements was pointed out as a major gap.

Faculty Administration: The conversation touched on the financial and administrative implications of outsourcing teaching responsibilities. There were pointed questions about why the organization was paying external entities substantial sums when similar tasks could potentially be managed internally. This led to a broader discussion on the value and effectiveness of current administrative expenditures and whether they aligned with the organization's strategic objectives.

Policy Reviews and Feedback: The process of reviewing policies was scrutinized, with emphasis on how feedback from these reviews was documented and communicated. There was a consensus on the need for a structured approach where each group involved in the review could provide concise summaries of their findings and clear recommendations. This would facilitate better integration of feedback and ensure that both the faculty and the Provost's office had consistent information.

Conclusions

The meeting underscored a critical need for enhanced mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in dealings with third-party entities, especially concerning how personal data was managed and utilized.

There was a strong sentiment that the organization might benefit from revisiting its approach to outsourcing, especially to ensure that financial resources were used efficiently.

Recommendations were made to improve the policy review process by adopting a more systematic feedback mechanism that would allow for better aggregation of insights and clearer communication of policy impacts.

Votes

The summary of the meeting did not indicate that any formal votes were taken on the discussed issues. Decisions seemed to be reached through discussions and mutual agreement rather than formal voting procedures.