University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee
2006-2007 Annual Report

Members:

Jeffrey Merrick  Prof  History
Deborah Padgett  Assoc  Social Work
Patricia Stevens  Prof  Nursing
Anoop Dhingra, Chair  Assoc  Mechanical Engineering
Lilian Ng  Prof  School of Business
John Buntin  Prof  Biological Sciences
Susan Lima  Assoc  Psychology

Charter:
Functions/ Responsibilities:

A2.8 Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee (FRRC)

(1) Membership.
Seven (7) tenured members of the faculty, no more than two (2) of whom shall be from a single faculty division. No more than three (3) members shall be from a single school, college, or equivalent academic unit, and no more than one (1) member shall be from a single department in a departmentalized school or college. Members who have been elected to and have served a full three-year term are not eligible for re-election until two (2) years have elapsed. Members who are elected to a partial term are eligible for reelection.

(2) Nominations and Elections. Nominations for election to the committee shall be by the Nominations Committee and by the faculty in accordance with the regular procedures for elected faculty committees. Elections shall be conducted in the same manner as for other faculty committees.

(3) Chairperson.
In the spring semester, the committee shall elect a chairperson for the following year from among its continuing members. The decision shall be communicated to the Secretary of the University by April 15. The duties of the new chairperson will commence on the first day of the fall semester, except that the new chairperson may serve over the summer by agreement of the committee in the event that the incumbent chairperson is unable to serve.

(4) Functions. Upon referral by the University Committee, pursuant to the provisions of s. UWS 6.01, Wis. Adm. Code, conducts fact-finding concerning allegations of misconduct, which may include alleged human rights violations, made against one or more faculty members or against a faculty body and makes recommendations to the Chancellor.
concerning disciplinary action or appropriate corrective nondisciplinary action. The Committee may consult informally with individuals concerning questions which may lead to allegations of misconduct prior to the filing of formal complaints with the University Committee.

(Document 1088, 4/20/78; UWM Administration approval, 4/26/78; Regent approval, 7/14/78)
(Document 1648, 1/26/89; UWM Administration approval, 2/11/89; Regent approval, 7/7/89)
(Document 1691, 12/21/89; UWM Administration approval, 2/8/90)

(5) Powers.
(a) The committee may dismiss the complaint, or refer it to the department or other equivalent administrative unit, or to the faculty member for disposition if the committee does not judge the allegation to be serious enough to warrant its further action.
(b) Upon determination by the committee that misconduct of sufficient magnitude to warrant consideration of dismissal for cause might have occurred, the committee shall refer the matter without further consideration to the Chancellor.
c) When the Chancellor has brought dismissal charges against a faculty member against whom a complaint has been filed under 5.23 above, the provisions of 5.21 through 5.29 supersede, and any proceedings under 5.40 through 5.46 shall be suspended immediately.

(Document 1433, 2/21/85; UWM Administration approval, 2/28/85)
(Document 1518, 11/20/86; UWM Administration approval, 11/24/86; Regent approval, 4/10/87)

Meetings:


1. The committee elected Anoop K. Dhingra as the FRRC chair for 2006-07 AY.

2. The committee started the 2006-07 AY with three (3) complaints carried over from the 2005-06 AY. They were dealt with as follows:

a) The first continuing complaint resulted in a formal hearing of the misconduct charges brought against the concerned faculty member and disciplinary sanctions were recommended by the FRRC (against the faculty member) to the Chancellor.
b) The second continuing complaint was referred back to the department as it involved a contractual dispute between the faculty member and the employing department.

c) After a detailed investigation over several months, the FRRC suspended further action on the third complaint in early 2007 when the department revised the remedies sought against the faculty member to include dismissal (of the faculty member) for cause. The revised remedy rendered the complaint beyond the jurisdiction of the FRRC.

3. The committee received four (4) new complaints during the 2006-07 AY. They were dealt with as follows:

   a) The first complaint filed by a faculty member against the department was dismissed after a detailed investigation yielded no evidence of alleged misconduct. The FRRC’s findings were communicated to the Provost.

   b) The second complaint brought by a faculty member against the department was dismissed without investigation as the FRRC had addressed the matter previously.

   c) Two complaints by a faculty member against several individuals were received. Portions of one of the complaint were not considered by the FRRC as they sought action against individuals who do not hold faculty rank or made decision(s) in their capacity as administrators. Portions of the two complaints that were directed against a faculty member were dismissed when FRRC’s investigation yielded no basis for alleged misconduct. The FRRC’s findings were communicated to the Provost.

4. The committee elected Anoop K. Dhingra as FRRC chair for 2007-08 AY.

Respectfully submitted,

Anoop K. Dhingra
Chair, 2006-2007