

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee _____ Lifelong Faculty Involvement

Academic Year Covered by Report _____ 2014 - 2015

Date Report Submitted _____ June 16, 2015

Report Submitted by _____ Tony L. Mitchell (Chairman)

Number of times committee met _____ 2

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although initial discussions ensued on several items of interest, the newness of committee members, change in chairmanship from prior years, and meeting scheduling difficulties combined such that no final, concrete recommendations to pass forward to campus leadership emerged from this academic year.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Natalie Ames (CHASS), Pal Arya (Marine Earth & Atmospheric Sciences), Tuere Bowles (Education), Betsy Brown (Provost Office), Larry Brown (Health & Exercise Studies), Christopher Daubert (Food, Bioprocessing & Nutrition Sciences), Alan Donaldson (Textile & Apparel Technology & Management - NCSU ARF), Jennifer Frix (Mechanical Engineering), Megan Jacob (Veterinary Medicine), Tony Mitchell (Engineering – Chair), Juliana Nfah-Abbenyi (English), Martha Scotford (Graphic & Industrial Design), Joe Williams (Human Resources).

First Meeting

The chairman, Tony Mitchell, introduced himself and welcomed all to the first meeting of the 2014-15 academic year. Since the committee contained several new members, the chairman asked that each member introduce themselves to the other members. The chairman explained his understanding of this committee's responsibilities and conveyed to the committee if they had any issues to address to notify the chairman. The chairman was invited by the Provost Office Liaison to the NCSU Association of Retired Faculty, to attend the September 2014 ARF board meeting. At that meeting the chairman of the LFI Committee, was voted an ex officio member on the ARF Board of Directors. This new status is to be a permanent seat held by the current LFI Committee Chair. The intent for this position is to improve the communications between both groups. The President of NCSU ARF is already an ex officio member of the LFI Committee. The chair then sought and received approval for the minutes from last spring's LFIC meeting, which were folded into the 2013 - 2014 LFI Committee annual review. One member suggested the names of the committee members be included in the annual report.

The LFIC member from HR gave an update on the Annual Enrollment for Benefits and shared the open enrollment period.

The Faculty Senate Rep of the LFI committee shared the Faculty Senate's priorities 2014 – 2015 campus priorities, which were: 1) Allocations of academic funds; 2) Grow doctoral graduate programs; 3) Student retention & success; and 4) Revision of post tenure policy.

The NCSU ARF tried to lobby the legislature this year to eliminate the six month hiatus rule for TSERS retirees but at the end of the session the matter was still unresolved. The HR representative indicated the vesting period for state retirees was changed back to five years from 10. The HR representative also asked the committee to give him feedback on retirees' university gift of an NC State University rocking chair and if they could, suggest about five other ideas the Benefits Office might consider as an alternate gift. The rocking chair cost to the university continues to escalate.

Action Items Resulting From First Meeting:

1. The committee agreed to include the names and affiliation of all members in the annual report. Members agreed to submit any retiring faculty gift ideas to the HR committee representative by the indicated deadline.
2. The committee agreed that in addition to updates from the chairman, reports from committee representatives for HR, the Faculty Senate, Provost Office, and NCSU Association of Retired Faculty, would also be regular items on future meeting agendas.

Second Meeting

The committee approved the minutes of the October 1, 2014 meeting, noting a needed correction to the spelling of one committee member's first name.

The LFIC representative from the Provost Office shared proposals to be presented at the next meeting of the NCSU Committee on Committees regarding the status of the LFI Committee:

1. Continue as a University Standing Committee with the same seats for members and ex-officio members.
2. Meets at least once a semester; will have additional meetings as needed at the suggestion of the members or the Provost, the Faculty Senate, the Association of Retired Faculty, or other groups or individual faculty members who bring issues or concerns to the Committee.
3. President of NCSU ARF continues to serve on this Committee.
4. Chair of the LFI Committee sits on the ARF Board of Directors as ex-officio in order to ensure that each group is kept informed about the activities of the other.
5. LFI Committee will request that ARF include LFI members on the mailing list for the ARF electronic newsletter.

The committee concurred with the proposed recommendations acknowledging the LFIC would have more flexibility in adjusting the frequency of meetings based on workload.

The HR committee representative provided an update on possible alternate retirement gifts for retirees, and the status of the health insurance cost-sharing change lawsuit pending before the courts. The Spring 2015 NCSU ARF Newsletter contains a comprehensive article explaining resolution of another law suit that impacted retirees in the TSERS with respect to taxable benefits.

A question was raised at an earlier meeting about an undergraduate student seat on the committee. The chairman confirmed that the position held by member Jennifer Frix fills that seat.

A brief discussion ensued pertaining to committee composition for the 2015 – 2016 academic year. Some members assumed their terms were ending and they will be replaced. No one in attendance could provide a definitive answer on this issue. We agreed to see what happens with appointments for the coming year.

The chair wanted to be sure committee members received each NCSU ARF Newsletter and sought to have members' email addresses added to the Newsletter distribution list. Upon learning there is no such list, that the newsletter is downloaded from the NCSU ARF Website, the chairman agreed to ensure each member had the download link, and asked the recording secretary to include that link in the meeting minutes.

Action Items Resulting From First Meeting:

1. Expect to get results of the NCSU Committee on Committees' disposition of the resolution pertaining to the LFI Committee.
2. Ensure committee members have continuing, easy access to the NCSU ARF Newsletter.
3. Anticipate reappointments or new appointments to the 2015 – 2016 version of the LFI Committee.

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION (if applicable)

The LFI committee expects the NC State Committee on Committees to approve the resolution that affords the maximum meeting frequency flexibility for us. We expect to increase meetings as agenda items dictate and have at least one meeting each semester during slow periods in our meeting cycle.