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ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY

July 31, 2013

TO: Les E. Wong, President
San Francisco State University

FROM: Larry Hanley, Chair 
Academic Senate

RE: Revisions to the Academic Freedom Committee

SOURCE COMMITTEE:

Academic Policies Committee

SENATE ACTION:

At its meeting on May 07, 2013 the Academic Senate approved revisions to the **Academic Freedom Committee, #S13-266**

We solicit your concurrence.
Thank you.

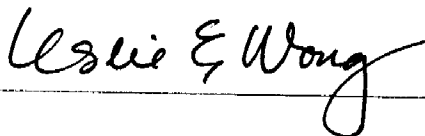
cc: Sue V. Rosser, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Patricia Bartscher, University Counsel
John Kim, Associate Vice President, Academic Resources

cc: All College Deans, Associate Deans, and Department Chairs

Attachment.

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION:

APPROVED: _____



DATE: _____

8-2-13



ACADEMIC SENATE POLICY #S13-266

All-University Academic Freedom Committee

(Superseding Academic Senate Policy F69-1A)

Rationale

A review of the 1969 Academic Freedom Committee policy was begun in 2010. The intent of the review was to update the policy so as to examine the ways in which the university expressed our principles of academic freedom in research, governance, and teaching as well as the committee's charge and membership. This proposed revision to the policy retains the charge and membership of the committee as written in 1969, but makes two major changes.

First, the 1969 policy included a number of later amendments embracing principles of academic freedom. These principles as expressed were outdated. Moreover, their expression in policy rather than resolution limited our flexibility to make changes to them in a period in which definitions and topics of academic freedom are changing rapidly. Thus in this proposed revision they were removed from the policy, updated, and placed in a separate policy being submitted to the senate for approval. In addition, the policy now includes language pointing to both this policy and AAU&P statements on academic freedom.

Second, questions were raised as to whether or not the senate should implement policy language governing the processes by which the Academic Freedom Committee works. The policy as proposed below gives instructions to the Academic Freedom Committee regarding publication of its processes, but does not define these processes for the committee.

* * *

Policy

The Academic Freedom Committee is an all-University committee. It is guided in its work by the AAU&P Statement on the Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure (1940 and later revisions)

Charge:

1. To keep informed of current theory and practice of academic freedom;
2. To be alert to cases on campus involving possible infringements of the rights and responsibilities
3. To receive requests for its study and advice concerning such cases of possible infringement of the rights and responsibilities of academic freedom on campus;
4. To support academic freedom and responsibility whenever and in whatever manner it deems necessary;
5. To govern its actions so as not to interfere with the rights of the individuals involved in grievance procedures or with the effective functions of the grievance machinery; and
6. To keep the Academic Senate currently informed regarding the Committee's activities and to submit a report to the Academic Senate at the end of each academic year.

Membership:

The Academic Freedom Committee shall consist of five (5) faculty elected at-large. No member of the Academic Senate or the University Administration above the level of department chair shall serve on the Committee. The committee chair shall be elected from among its members.

Terms:

Members shall serve three-year staggered terms. Members may succeed themselves in office, with the exception that no member shall serve for more than six (6) consecutive years.

Process:

The Academic Freedom Committee shall determine its own processes and publish these on its website, as well as report their processes and any changes made to these processes to the Academic Senate in their annual report. Changes in the committee's processes shall only take effect in the following year.

This policy supersedes F69-1A, Academic Freedom Committee.

*****Approved by the Academic Senate at its meeting on May 07, 2013*****