

## Faculty Senate/All University Committee Report (2014-2015)

<b>Committee:</b>	Academic Affairs	<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sally Moomaw	<b>Date:</b> 12/3/14; online 12/4/14
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<b>Committee Members at the Meeting:</b>	Lisa Beckelhimer, Deborah Page, Beverly Reigle, Rebecca Leuggers, Chia-Chi Ho, Sally Moomaw
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<b>Topics Discussed: provide a brief description of each</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Gigi Escoe, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, requested that faculty Senate endorse a policy change that indicates that when a TRAC appeal is successful, the registration and grades may be removed from the transcript without involving faculty in the process of approving the grade change.</li> <li>2. Dr. Rich Miller, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, informed the committee that the issue of a Residency Requirement for Awarding Degree has moved beyond the university and is being discussed at the state level.</li> <li>3. Rich Miller presented preliminary work by a committee working on standardizing student evaluations of faculty. A framework of five questions would be required across all colleges, but each college could also add questions of their own.</li> </ol>
<b>Action Items: List item and attach supporting document if action requires such background</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The committee responded favorably to Dr. Escoe's request but asked that faculty be informed of the grades that are removed. This was added to the request and presented to Cabinet on Dec. 4.</li> <li>2. A resolution regarding HB 616 (proprietary textbooks) was presented at Cabinet on Dec. 4. Two small revisions were incorporated based on comments from Cabinet.</li> <li>3. Revised wording for the policy statement on determination of emeritus status was presented to Cabinet. Further changes were made to the wording.</li> </ol>

<b>Describe action needed on items above (discussion and input, vote, etc):</b>	<b>By Whom:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposed changes to TRAC appeals, including notification of faculty, will be presented at the Dec. 11 Senate meeting.</li> <li>2. The resolution opposing proprietary textbook legislation will be presented to Senate on Dec. 11.</li> <li>3. The revised wording on determination of emeritus status is ready to be presented to Senate pending approval by the Emeriti Committee.</li> </ol>	___ By Faculty Senate ___ By Cabinet ___ Others (List-)
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	

### TRAC Appeals

**From:** Miller, Caroline (millec8)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2014 9:40 AM

**To:** Herrmann, Tracy (herrmaty); Escoe, Gisela (escoegm)

**Cc:** Merchant, Debra (merchads); Moomaw, Sally (moomawsc); Meyer, Frances (meyerfr); Latham, Ann (lathamah)

**Subject:** RE: TRAC Appeals

Each term the university Tuition Refund Appeals Committee (TRAC) considers numerous student requests for tuition refunds. The reasons for a successful appeal are many but may include military deployment, employment transfers, death or significant illness in the family, trouble dealing with a traumatic event (such as sexual assault), mental health problems, etc. The university requires thorough and appropriate documentation in these situations. When an appeal for a tuition refund is granted, the registration and grades for the term(s) in question are removed for the transcript. It has been past process that a member of the registrar's staff has had to track down faculty and get their permission for the grade removal. This is very time consuming and results in highly confidential information being shared more widely than may be necessary. My request is, would faculty senate be willing to endorse a policy change that indicates that when a TRAC appeal is successful, the registration and grades may be removed from the transcript without involving the faculty in the process of approving the grade change. The Registrar's Office would notify faculty of the decision and grade change based on TRAC approval.

### **Textbook Resolution**

#### A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED OHIO HOUSE LEGISLATION ON PROPRIETARY TEXTBOOKS

**WHEREAS**, college students need textbooks carefully selected to meet their needs, and college faculty, as experts in their subject areas, are in the best position to judge the differences among texts; and

**WHEREAS**, textbooks written to address the same topic often differ greatly from one other, including differences in how a topic is explained, what material is included or left out, difficulty of the text, illustrations or figures, problem sets, and supporting materials; and

**WHEREAS**, student bodies in Ohio differ greatly across colleges; and

**WHEREAS**, programs or departments sometimes produce their own in-house texts because they are tailored to the needs of their students and are more effective than "canned" assignments or examples from generic texts that do not relate specifically to the needs of their students; and

**WHEREAS**, the prices for faculty- or program-generated texts are often substantially lower than the prices of competing texts; and

**WHEREAS**, Ohio students want to work with top-tier faculty, and attracting these faculty to Ohio universities would be negatively impacted if faculty lacked the academic freedom to select texts; and

**WHEREAS**, recruitment of students to Ohio universities would also be impacted, because students may wish to study with faculty who have written particular texts, and faculty publications are listed on university websites to attract students; and

**WHEREAS**, students already have multiple sources for acquiring textbooks, including rental, libraries, and online vendors;

**THEREFORE**, the University of Cincinnati Faculty Senate does not support legislation restricting proprietary textbooks in Ohio colleges and universities.

## Emeritus Status

### **II. Procedures for Granting Emeritus Status—As of March 15, 2014, being finalized by the Provost in conjunction with the Faculty Senate**

~~The responsibility for initiating Emeritus status for retiring faculty rests with the academic unit head. retiring faculty member. S/he should ask a retiring faculty member if the faculty member wishes to be considered for Emeritus status, and, if so, request that the~~ This faculty member shall submit a current CV that can be made available to the faculty of the unit. At an appropriate meeting thereafter, and before the member retires, the decision on awarding Emeritus status should be made ~~by a vote of all Faculty of the Academic Unit who vote on RPT decisions.~~ according to the procedures and practices adopted by the faculty of the unit. The bestowal of emeritus(a) status is an honor, not a right, and is based upon demonstration of a high level of accomplishments throughout his/her professional career. This judgment should also be consistent with the Unit's RPT criteria and procedures.

Assuming the vote is positive, this should be conveyed to the Dean, along with a CV and a letter from the academic unit head. The Dean would then, in a timely manner, submit his/her own letter and submit this, along with the documentation provided by the unit head to the Provost, and the Board of Trustees.

Should the unit faculty vote be negative, the faculty member would not be granted Emeritus status.

~~Should the unit head not take the initiative, the retiring faculty member may inform his/her unit head that s/he does wish to be considered for Emeritus status following the above review procedure.~~