

Board of Review report/ AY 2019-2020

The Board of Review did not hear any direct cases or appeals during the past academic year. However, one faculty member's concern generated substantial conversation with the Board of Review committee Chair and the Senate President.

After their application was not successful, the faculty member expressed concerns about the clarity of an application process, and noted that there were no available rubrics that might guide faculty members who might be seeking similar funding/rewards. The person discussed the issue first with Paul Cook, and later with me (Sarah Heath) to determine whether a formal appeal of a decision was the best approach, or whether it would be better to seek alternative forms of redress.

At first I encouraged the faculty member to discuss their application with those who served on the committee that considered those submissions (in essence, ask how the committee reached its final rankings, and/or a fuller explanation as to why this person's application was not successful). I also urged them to speak to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs to see if it were possible to locate an application rubric or other guidelines. Apparently, those responses were not satisfactory to the faculty member.

When I met with the person in question, I suggested a few different possibilities:

1. Appeal the determination of the committee that extended awards/funding, pointing out that this would entail requesting information about all applicants and asking for more detail about the results of that committee's work.
2. Without a full appeal of the committee's work, as Chair of the Board of Review I could request more substantive commentary about the merits and concerns regarding that application.
3. If the committee member accepted the findings of the committee in question, they could still ask a Senate committee (such as Faculty Affairs) or the Vice Chancellor's office to draft a more substantive rubric that would outline more clearly the criteria by which applications are to be evaluated.

The committee member decided that the third option was best. This meant that the Board of Review did not have to consider the case formally, and hopefully will lead to a solution that gives the faculty member some sense of resolution.

Sarah Heath, Ph.D.

Chair, Board of Review

Indiana University Kokomo

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