

Here's a summary of our Faculty Affairs Committee's work for the academic year.

First, the committee evaluated the criteria of the Claude Rich Excellence in Teaching Award. The instructions for the award were not as clear as to whether or not a nominator is required, i.e., could an applicant self-nominate? Secondly, it was unclear whether the award is an once-in-a-lifetime award or could it be won an infinite number of times. Ultimately, the committee decided that an applicant could self-nominate and that the award could only be won once-in-a-lifetime. However, if an applicant wins the award as an adjunct, he/she is eligible as a full-time resident faculty (if they move into that rank). Our proposals were unanimously supported, thus adopted by the full Faculty Senate. Another major task our Faculty Affairs Committee was engaged in had to do with the current "Stopping the Tenure Clock" policy. Under the previous policy, there were no clear provisions regarding emergency situations, e.g., family illnesses, pregnancies. The committee examined the Family and Medical Leave Act (1993) implemented during the Clinton Administration as a framework for our discussions. The ultimate decision involved granting extensions to untenured probationary faculty or librarians, not to exceed one calendar year, under unusual circumstances (public service or a personal/family emergency). Moreover, such an extension must be approved by the department chair (if applicable), one's academic dean, and the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. Such approval must be recorded as an addendum to the faculty member's or librarian's *Notice of Terms of Initial Appointment*. This policy is separate from policies regarding leaves of absence without pay or with partial pay. Lastly, another major accomplishment as of the Faculty Affairs Committee involved the lowering of the quorum to conduct monthly Faculty Senate business. A majority of the Faculty Senate concurred that lowering the attendance to 40% was sufficient to conduct Faculty Senate business.

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