

Faculty Development Committee Meeting
September 23, 2020
2:00 PM
Location: Google Meet

In attendance: Mark Faucette, Amy Yarbough, Dan Williams, Harry Nelson, Shelley Rogers, Heather Mbaye, Salvador Lopez, Patrick Erben, Katy Green

Agenda Item 1:

A verbal policy was mentioned by a chair at a department meeting that each program across campus may only grant ONE (1) faculty research leave per program per year. Apparently, this was decided last academic year, but faculty were unaware. There is no written policy.

The faculty development committee reviewed sections 112.0101 and 112.0102 in the handbook. The handbook mentions the main reasons for allowing/not allowing leave were determined on class coverage and budget. There is no current statement on how the number of faculty per unit or program can take leave.

The issue was raised that if a policy was enacted regarding the number of faculty who can take leave, it would disrupt faculty morale and would bring about equity issues, particularly which faculty would be chosen to take leave first and which would have to take their leave last if several faculty requested leave in the same academic year.

Mark will get in touch with the Provost and request for clarification and a statement from the Provost's office regarding the policy.

Agenda Item 2:

A second item was brought to the table regarding faculty leaves:

The question was asked: who determines who gets leave and who does not. Should the Faculty Development committee have a say in who receives leave? The signatures required on the leave paperwork include: the department chair, dean, provost, and president. The committee unanimously determined that we do not believe the faculty development committee should have say in which faculty receive leave and which do not. We feel that should be determined at the department level.

The meeting was adjourned.