

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Rodney B. Piercey
DATE: March 5, 2007
RE: March Faculty Senate Report

The following updates are submitted to the Faculty Senate for March on behalf of Academic Affairs:

Preliminary Framework for Distributing One-time Merit Funds to Faculty

This framework is currently being discussed by the administration, the academic leadership and the faculty. Discussions with the University community were scheduled with:

Chairs Association	2/21, 3/7
Faculty Forums	2/28, 3/1
Senate Faculty Welfare Committee	2/28
Faculty Senate	3/5

2006-2007 Actions of the University Promotion and Tenure Committee and Provost

Results to Date Summary	Approved	Denied	Total
Tenure Applications	30	1	31
Promotion Applications	42	5	47
Total Applications	72	6	78

Tenure	
Applications Denied	3
Appealed Applications	3 (2 @ Dept level, 1 @ College level)
Appealed Applications Approved	2 (1 @ Dept level, 1 @ College level)
Appeal Applications Denied	1 (College level)

Promotion	
Applications Denied	6 (4 @ Dept Level, 2 @ College level)
Appealed Applications	1 (College level)
Appealed Applications Approved	1 (College level)
Appealed Applications Denied	0

Provost	
Decision differed from Committee	0
Reversed Original Decision	0
Concurred with Original Decision	0

Graduate School Policy and Procedural Changes

The Council on Academic Affairs has approved a proposal from the Graduate School and Graduate Council to suspend the process of graduate candidacy. This action was taken in consultation with Graduate program Coordinators and is intended to reduce the administrative burden on advisors, graduate students and Graduate School staff.

The Council on Academic Affairs has approved a proposal from the Graduate School and Graduate Council to implement an Academic Bankruptcy policy for graduate students. The recommended policy change is similar to that currently in place for undergraduate students. It affords graduate students an opportunity to exclude coursework meeting clearly specified criteria from inclusion in their graduate GPA.

The Council on Academic Affairs has approved a proposal from the Graduate School and Graduate Council to extend the seven-year time limit for graduate programs that exceed 40 semester hours of required coursework. Along with the policy change will come a strict adherence to the current seven-year time limit for master's degree students. Effective in Fall 2007, extensions to the seven-year limit will only be granted under well-documented and exceptional circumstances. Graduate advisors are strongly encouraged to alert students to the new requirements.

Detailed information on these procedural changes will soon be posted on the Graduate School [website](#).

Graduate CARES Reports

The Graduate School and ITDS have begun a full implementation of the CARES report for all graduate programs. Until now, only a limited number of graduate programs have been included in the CARES system. The first task is to place all current programs in the College of Health Sciences in the CARES system. Full inclusion of programs in the Colleges of Business & Technology, Justice & Safety, Arts & Sciences, and Education will continue throughout the remainder of the academic year with a goal of having all graduate programs included by Fall 2007. This will eliminate the need for the tiling of planned programs with the Graduate School and assure that graduate students, their advisors, and Graduate School staff have full access to a student's academic record.

Other Information

The Graduate School has established a working group to look at ways to streamline the process for graduation. The first meeting of the workgroup will be held on March 28. We will also be conducting trainings on the new policies and procedures for processing graduate assistantships. Interested faculty and staff should contact Ms. Nikki Kowalski at x2 1744 for additional information about these workshops.

University Programs

African/African American Studies co-sponsored eight events for black history month. Approximately 375 people were in attendance at these events.

The African/African-American Studies program took 45 students to the Mohammed Ali museum in Louisville, KY on February 24, 2007.

The Women's Studies program held the Vagina Monologues on campus on February 15th-17th. Approximately 1200 people attended (tripled last year's attendance). Proceeds totaling \$4,000 go to the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center.

Plans for new faculty orientation are under way for the fall. Thus far, ten new faculty have been hired for fall 2007. There are currently 35 positions pending.

The General Education Committee meets on March 6th to consider a proposal for Thinking and Communicating Across the Curriculum, one of the QEP funded proposals. This proposal will require one writing intensive general education course for students who begin baccalaureate studies in Fall 2007 or later contingent upon approval of the QEP by SACS in April.

Submitted: March 5, 2007