

To: The Faculty Senate
From: The Committee on Rules
Date: April 24, 2009

The Committee on Rules requests that the Faculty Senate adopt the following motion at its meeting on May 4, 2009:

MOTION:

The Faculty Senate recommends to the Faculty-at-large the addition of a new "Committee on Academic Quality" to the Committees of the Faculty Senate. (See The Faculty Handbook: Part VII Organization of the Faculty of Eastern Kentucky University; Section VII The Faculty Senate, E. Committees of the Senate.)

The committee's structure and duties will be as follows:

Committee on Academic Quality

- a. The Committee on Academic Quality shall consist of the Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate and five members elected by the Senate from its elected membership. Elected members shall serve for the duration of their current term.
- b. The Committee on Academic Quality shall elect annually a chair from among its membership.
- c. The Committee on Academic Quality shall provide a channel of communication among the Faculty Senate, the faculty-at-large, and the Administration on academic matters and the formulation of academic policy.
- d. The Committee shall be available as an advisory agency to the President of the University, to the Provost, and to the Strategic Planning Council on academic matters. The Committee shall meet with the President and/or Provost at least once each semester to share information about academic affairs and policies.
- e. The Committee shall serve as a channel of communication with the Student Government Association on matters concerning student academic responsibility and students' role within the academic community.
- f. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Senate on matters including, but not limited to, the teaching and learning environment (e.g. may survey faculty regarding their academic concerns), the responsibility of students in the learning process, advising, academic calendar issues, and student records and assessment.
- g. One week before each Executive Committee meeting, the Chair of the Committee shall submit written minutes or a progress report to the Chair of the Senate who will forward them to the Secretary of the Senate for permanent filing. The Chair of the Committee shall report to the Senate at least semiannually. After receiving its report, the Senate shall, at its discretion, provide suggestions, reactions, and comments to the Committee for subsequent Committee consideration.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE MOTION:

According to the AAUP's Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities [see www.aaup.org]:

The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process.

The establishment of a standing senate Committee on Academic Quality would ensure that faculty input is given at the earliest stages of any discussion of academic matters that affect faculty, students, and the learning environment. This would prevent situations from arising in which administrative decisions that have an impact on teaching and learning are made without adequate faculty input.