

## **Memorandum**

From: Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights Committee

To: Academic Senate Executive Committee

Date: April 29, 2013

Re: Report of 2012-2013 activities

The Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights committee expresses opinions on alleged violations of the academic freedom or rights of individual colleagues, and advises the University on the revision and creation of University policies and procedures. During the academic year 2012-2013 we had two meetings. The Minutes of those meetings are attached to this memo.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter Alfeld

Chair, Academic Freedom and Faculty rights committee, April 29, 2013

## **Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights Committee**

Minutes, Meeting of August 29, 2012

The meeting took place in LCB 218 and lasted from 4:05-4:55pm. The following members were present: Bob Allen, Keith Bartholomew, Margaret Clayton, Michael Goodman, Todd Kramer, Bruce Quaglia, Peter Alfeld, and Robert Fujinami (ex officio).

The agenda comprised the following items:

- **Change of Policy 4-001.** The AFFR Committee had received from the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate (ECAS) a proposal to change Policy 4-001. We were asked for our opinion and approval, and any comments on the proposed change. The substantive change in the policy consists of the creation of a new category of data, i.e., personal data, which are created and maintained by individual members of the University. Such data are private, and, according to the changed policy, will remain private even if they are made available to University administrators.

The committee unanimously agreed on the following memo to be sent to ECAS:

The AFFR committee was unanimous in approving and welcoming the proposed change of Policy 4-001. We did have several queries that may lead to small changes in the wording of the policy:

- Definitions IIB. According to the definition, personal data are created and maintained by faculty or staff members. This wording seems to exclude students unless in this context they are covered by the phrase staff member. Undergraduate and Graduate Students participate in many projects where personal data are created. The revised policy should reflect this fact.
- The revised policy (in items IIB and IIIH3) prohibits administrators from sharing and making public personal data. Perhaps this should be strengthened by having a statement that administrators are required to take positive action to protect such data, rather than just not actively disseminate the data themselves.
- The revised policy makes no mention of consequences of violating its provisions. Presumably such consequences are described in other, more general, university policies and procedures. Perhaps the relevant policies should be referenced.

- **University Ombudsman.**

At the end of last year the AFFR committee proposed to ECAS that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore the introduction of an office of University Ombudsman. The original suggestion was made by Arthur Hartz who was a member of the committee but has since retired. The committee decided to take further action only if and when we are so instructed by ECAS.

Submitted by Peter Alfeld, August 30, 2012.

## Memorandum

From: Academic Freedom and Faculty Rights Committee

Date: March 25, 2013

Re: Grievance

The AFFR committee met today to discuss an academic grievance alleging academic misconduct. The following members were present: Peter Alfeld, Bob Allen, Keith Bartholomew, Margaret Clayton, Christina Gringeri, Ray Gunn, and Lee Warthen. We discussed the materials submitted and agreed unanimously that they contain no evidence that academic freedom or faculty rights have been violated.

Peter Alfeld, chair, AFFR committee, March 25, 2013