

Secretary of the University Advisory Committee (SAC)

Meeting date: December 14, 2018

Location: 5075 Fleming

In attendance:

Sally Churchill, Secretary and VP of the University

Megan Schimpf, chair

Joy Beatty, SACUA liaison

Francine Dolins

Felichism Kabo

Helen Look

Hsiao Hsin Sung

Merle Rosenzweig

Janelle Stewart

Grace Wu

Meeting began around 1p

Secretary Churchill welcomed members. We discussed that the November election has brought 2 new members to the Board of Regents starting in early 2019. This represents 25% turnover.

Faculty-student relations are a particular focus of the University right now, and discussion on these comprised the majority of the meeting.

A new policy prohibiting sexual relationships between faculty and students was brought by the Board at their most recent meeting. There is an older existing policy. Policies/recent actions at other peer institutions were discussed. The goal of the policy is understood, especially given some recent public stories concerning a coach, music faculty and a GSI. The proposed new SPG has several grey zones that members felt need clarification, including reporting/decision-making on existing relationships, and whether this applies to GSIs/medical house staff in a similar fashion to faculty. Members felt the new policy must be clear, consistent, contain known ramifications and then strictly/uniformly enforced. Precisely what constitutes a "relationship" also needs definition. This discussion also included the topic of mentoring when a faculty member and student are of different genders, which should not be discouraged by this policy.

The committee also discussed the issue of writing of letters of recommendation for students brought to light by events occurring over summer 2018. There was agreement that faculty should not be forced to write letters of all who request, but the declination process is unclear.

Secretary Churchill proposed a meeting in January to continue the active discussion.

Meeting adjourned about 2:35pm.

Next meeting: planning in progress for a 90-min meeting in Jan 2019 if possible.