

ANNUAL REPORT – Faculty Policies and Compensation Committee – 2016-17

FPCC was asked to review only one policy during the 2016-17 academic year. In December of 2016, Faculty Senate President Tom Vaughn contacted FPCC chair Lois Cox to request that the committee review and consider revisions to the university's Intellectual Property policy then being developed by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. VPR Dan Reed subsequently followed up with Prof. Cox to explain that changes to the policy were necessitated by a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling relating to the timing of assignments of intellectual property rights to the university by faculty and staff members, students, and visiting scholars. Changes were also needed to update policy language and defined terms. VP Reed provided the committee with draft language and explanatory materials. In January, 2017, the committee met to review the materials provided by VP Reed and to discuss in general terms concerns and questions the committee might have. Later that month, VP Reed met with the committee to discuss the proposed changes and answer committee members' questions. Afterwards, the committee prepared a document setting forth its concerns over the proposed changes and forwarded it to VP Reed. In March, VP Reed responded to the committee and provided committee members with a revised version of the proposed changes to the Intellectual Property policy. On April 3, FPCC met to discuss those changes. Prof. Cox wrote to VP Reed and Pres. Vaughn the following day to thank VP Reed for his work to address committee concerns and to enlarge briefly on the committee's remaining concerns. Those concerns related largely to faculty members' rights and choices in situations in which the university decides not to pursue a patent. The committee then voted unanimously to recommend adoption of the policy revision. The new policy language was subsequently presented to Faculty Council and Faculty Senate, where it received approval after some further revision.