

Report of Committee on Committees

In its continuing reveiw of academic committees, the Committee on Committees has noted a problem regarding the Faculty Affairs Committee. Not only is that committee charged with the responsibilities listed on page 8-9 of the Faculty Manual, but also with the responsibility of serving as an appeals board for tenured faculty members dissatisfied with promotion and/or salary increases. The pertinent section of the Personnel Policy and Procedure for the Faculty, appendix B., page 96 of the Faculty Manual, reads:

In matters pertaining to promotion and salary increases the individual tenured faculty member has the right of appeal to the Faculty Affairs Committee. It is desirable that the right of appeal through the Department Chairman be utilized before an appeal is made to this committee.

The Faculty Affairs Committee shall consider all evidence pertinent to the requested promotion or salary increase and report its recommendation to the Department Chairman, appropriate Dean, President of the University, and Chairman of the Faculty. The Chairman of the Faculty shall be notified of administrative action on the Committee's recommendation; and, in the event that administrative action differs from the recommendation of the Committee, the Chairman of the Faculty shall be informed of the reasons for this decision.

With this appeals responsibility of the Faculty Affairs Committee in mind, the Committee on Committees recommends that two alternate members be appointed to the Faculty Affairs Committee. The alternate members will serve on the Committee when regular members feel it necessary to disqualify themselves from considerations of the Committee or where regular members of the Committee are not available to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee on Committees
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Charles Brown
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Faculty Affairs Committee Report

Professors and Political Activity

The topic of "Professors and Political Activity" was referred to the Faculty Affairs Committee for discussion since East Carolina University faculty members become involved in political activity at local, district, and state levels from time to time. In view of the fact that the University has not published a statement of philosophy in regard to this type of activity to date, it is felt by some that a statement of clarification may be needed. The Faculty Affairs Committee feels that the attached AAUP statement on "Professors and Political Activity" covers the topic very well. Therefore, the committee would like to present the statement to the Faculty Senate for discussion and disposition.

STATEMENT

1. The college or university faculty member is a citizen and, like other citizens, should be free to engage in political activities so far as he is able to do so consistently with his obligations as a teacher and scholar.
2. Many kinds of political activity (e.g., holding part-time office in a political party, seeking election to any office under circumstances that do not require extensive campaigning, or serving by appointment or election in a part-time political office) are consistent with effective service as a member of a faculty. Other kinds of political activity (e.g., intensive campaigning for elective office, serving in a state legislature, or serving a limited term in a full-time position) may require that the professor seek a leave of absence from his college or university.
3. In recognition of the legitimacy and social importance of political activity by faculty members, universities and colleges should provide institutional arrangements to permit it, similar to those applicable to other public or private extramural service. Such arrangements may include the reduction of the faculty member's workload or a leave of absence for the duration of an election campaign or a term of office, accompanied by equitable adjustment of compensation when necessary.
4. A faculty member seeking leave should recognize that he has a primary obligation to his institution and to his growth as an educator and scholar; he should be mindful of the problem which a leave of absence can create for his administration, his colleagues, and his students; and he should not abuse the privilege by too frequent or too late application or too extended a leave. If adjustments in his favor are made, such as a reduction of workload, he should expect them to be limited to a reasonable period.
5. A leave of absence incident to political activity should come under the institution's normal rules and regulations for leaves of absence. Such a leave should not affect unfavorably the tenure status of a faculty member, except that time spent on such leave from academic duties need not count as probationary service. The terms of a leave and its effect on the professor's status should be set forth in writing.