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Temporaries being eligible to seek Faculty Development and Faculty Service funding be taken off the table

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Approved by the Senate: 3/27/2006

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Temporaries being eligible to seek Faculty Development and Faculty Service funding be taken off the table

Submitted by Bill Yang/Patricia Humphrey

2/3/2006

Motion:

The definition of "full-time faculty" eligible to apply for Faculty Development and/or Faculty Service grant money be explicitly expanded to include full-time temporary faculty, as long as their appointment coincides with the project period.

Rationale:

The Faculty Development Committee is in the process of reviewing applications. We have received quite a few requests from some full-time temporary instructors about if they are eligible. So far, the committee has discussed the request case by case each time. But the committee wants to have it further clarified in the guidance.

This change makes the definition compatible with that used by the Faculty Research Committee

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Senate Response:

Minutes, March 27, 2006 Motion to bring off the table: Faculty Development Committee motion to clarify "full-time faculty," Bill Yang, COBA

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: The next item was supposed to be a motion to take off the table the motion we were discussing last time about whether or not temporaries should be eligible for Faculty Development and Faculty Service money. Bill Yang was supposed to make the motion, but I do not see him here. A motion was made by Jerry Wilson (COBA) that the tabled motion regarding temporaries being eligible to seek Faculty Development and Faculty Service funding be taken off the table. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: The Faculty Development Committee wanted guidance on whether they should entertain proposals for funding from full-time temporaries. If you will recall, last time as I mentioned, Faculty Research specifically includes temporary faculty, but Faculty Service and Faculty Development are moot on the issue. They just say all full-time faculty. The question came as a question of guidance. Should these temporaries be entitled or allowed to seek the funding? And as you recall, the legal opinion from Lee Davis was that they would be eligible as long as the activities were completed by the end of the current contract. Is there discussion?

Bob Cook (CIT), Senate Parliamentarian: State the motion.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: The motion is that temporary faculty be eligible to seek funding from Faculty Development and Faculty Service committees, as long as it does not constitute an extension of their current contract.

Candy Schille (CLASS): I just think it makes sense. Of course, why not treat our temporaries humanely.

David Alley (CLASS): The rationale for the Faculty Research Committee when we addressed this in 2004, as I remember, included two points: 1) there was an increasing number of temporary faculty with no signs of lessening that number, and 2) a large percentage of those temporary faculty become full-time faculty. And, so, their participation in these funding opportunities often facilitates their move from temporary to full time.

Candy Schille (CLASS): Is that a bad thing or a good thing?

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: It is a good thing.

David Alley (CLASS): The Research Committee voted to support it, so it is a good thing.

Candy Schille (CLASS): Okay, thank you.

Jerry Wilson (COBA): Following up on what David said (since we served on that committee together at that time), I think that the letters that we sent out to temporary awardees stated the endpoint for expenditure of funds. I do not know how it was worded, but I think there was something like that in the letter. Wasn't there?

David Alley (CLASS): Yes, to keep in line with the fact that there could not be an implicit extension of a contract; the funds would have to be expended before the temporaries' contract would end.

Godfrey Gibbison (COBA): Quick question. What happens if the funds are not expended by the date? Are they simply yanked?

Linda Bleciken (Provost): Any funds that are not expended are rolled back in to the total that can be expended. Essentially there is a lump sum that is established for development, research, and service, and so if funds not expended usually get taken up in some other category that was not fully funded.

Pat Humphrey (COST) Senate Moderator: Is there any other discussion? The motion before you is that temporary faculty would be specifically included and eligible to seek funding from the Faculty Development and Faculty Service Committees, as long as the activities were completed before the end of their current contracts, therefore not creating an implicit extension. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

Update: 2/13/2006: After the agenda setting meeting, I received an e-mail from Bill Yang, Chairman of the Faculty Development Committee, and he questioned whether temporary faculty were eligible to receive funding. After reviewing the web pages for the various grant competitions, I found that temporary faculty were specifically included for research grants, but no mention was made of them for either service or faculty development grants. And even though the FDC has finished this cycle, the Service Committee is still working on evaluating requests for funding. Therefore, I wanted to get the views of the Senate, so I placed an agenda item request as #9 on today's agenda. I should state I have no investment in the way that the motion was worded, but I thought that we should make it positive rather than negative.

Update: 3/27/2006: You might recall at last month's Senate meeting that the motion on temporary faculty eligibility for Faculty Development and Service funding was tabled for legal input. After the meeting, I conferred with University Attorney Lee Davis. It was his opinion that there would be no limitation on temporary faculty receiving funding as long as it did not constitute an implied extension of a contract. With that in mind, we decided

that temporary faculty could be eligible for Fall and early Spring rounds as long as the activity was completed by commencement in May; therefore, not implicitly extending their contracts. Still wanting to get the views of the Senate that motion is back to be taken off the table as item number 9 on today's agenda.