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Course load for temporary faculty

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Course load for temporary faculty
Submitted by: Sonya Huber

11/19/2008

Question:

Rationale:

Senate Response:

Request for Information Provost Bleicken responded to Sonya Huber’s RFI regarding projected teaching loads for temporary faculty by noting that the Senate discussed the issue in 2004 and adopted the current language in the Handbook based on the Board of Regent’s guidelines.

GSU has established a 12-hour load for faculty. The current wording in the Handbook streamlines the previous long and laborious passage which enumerated distinctions between temporary and permanent faculty. In the current wording, “faculty” is interpreted by the administration to refer to tenure track and tenured faculty only. GSU plans to institute University-wide, 15-hour per semester class loads for all temporary faculty — a load already in place in some departments. Whether this is a temporary adjustment or will be a standard practice is unknown at this time.
Linda Bleicken (Provost) clarified that it isn’t 15-hour course load; it is a 15-hour workload, and a 15-hour workload is what all faculty have, given tenure-track and tenured faculty’s obligation to service and scholarship. She added that it is not the institutions intention to assign a 15-hour course load to all temporary faculty members. That decision lies within the purview of the Chair and the Dean; however, a 15-hour workload applies to all faculty. Temporary faculty members are hired with the expectation that they are going to teach but without an explicit expectation that they are going to be evaluated on either service or scholarship.

Marc Cyr (Chair) Senate Executive Committee had asked Provost Bleicken for clarification on whether or not temporary faculty get written contracts. Cyr reported that temporary faculty do not work with a written contract, but instead with a directive (a PA, or Personnel Action) to personnel offices to give them pay and benefits.

Linda Bleicken (Provost) cited Section 800 in the BOR Policy Manual as one that is actually under discussion by a group of Provosts assembled by the University System office because the section has been confusing to many for years. At this time, the committee has not resolved the matter.

Sonya Huber (CLASS) reiterated her understanding of the RFI concerning course load for temporary faculty as a 15 hour workload as determined by the Dean and the Chairs so that she could report to CLASS faculty. Marc Cyr (Chair) Senate Executive Committee confirmed her understanding.