Committee on Policy Review
Spring 2024 Semester Report

2023-2024 Members
- Voting Members Present
    o Michael Hudson, Committee Chair and MCHHS; Cindy MacGregor, MCHHS Faculty Member; Cathy Pearman, COE Faculty Member; Rebecca Woodard, MCHHS Faculty Member; Shurita Thomas-Tate, MCHHS Faculty Member; Jamie Atkinson, COE Faculty Member; Elizabeth Walker, Faculty Senate Chair and DCOA; Scott Zimmerman, Faculty Senate Chair-elect and MCHHS; Will McClain, Faculty Handbook Revision Committee Chair and DCOA
- Non-voting and *ex officio* Members Present
    o Rachael Dockery, General Counsel; Ken Brown, Office of the Provost; Patrick Hurn, Human Resources (non-voting); Angela Young, Office of the Registrar; and Susan Hardy, SGA

Membership (from Bylaws)
- The Chair of the Faculty Senate, the Chair-Elect of the Faculty Senate, and the Chair of the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee shall be members of the Policy Review Committee.
- A minimum of three additional faculty members will be appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate, so as to provide representation from various academic colleges. These additional faculty members will serve a two-year term and may be reappointed for up to two consecutive terms. One of these faculty members will be appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate to serve as committee chair.
- The Student Government Association shall provide a representative to the committee who will be ex officio without vote. The Director of Human Resources, the Provost, a representative from the Registrar's office, and General Counsel will be ex officio members without vote.

Purpose (from Bylaws)
- Shall meet up to twice monthly to discuss pending policies under consideration by university leadership and to review current content in the university Policy Library.
- Shall identify current and emerging content in the university Policy Library (excluding the Faculty Handbook) that should be reviewed by the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee or warrants further review by the faculty.
- Shall prepare and present periodic reports with recommendations to the Faculty Senate regarding policies being referred to the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee, pending operating policies (OP) under consideration by university leadership, and other Policy Library content that should be further reviewed by the faculty

Policies Reviewed and Actions Taken

1. There were no formal presentations of policy issues from the following groups: Faculty Handbook Revision Committee, Registrar's Office, and Student Government Association

2. Administrative Council/Provost's Office presented the following policy issues.
   - Op1.02-2 is an internal policy about discrimination. Internal procedures associated with this policy were amended. These amendments were not associated with Title IX and had no direct impact on faculty
   - G7.05 is a policy regarding permanent residency for hiring staff. These amendments had no direct impact on faculty.
   - Op 7.10 is a policy about hiring guidelines for all university members, so these amendments could relate to faculty. The proposed amendments were related to compliance with current DEI legislation, and will be reviewed by Policy Review at a future date
   - Op3.30-1 is the policy describing the application for the rank of Distinguished Professor. The Office of the Provost proposed two amendments to the policy: (1) Recognize more than 2 faculty in a year, and (2) Amend language from departments to academic units. The Policy Review Committee had no objections to these amendments.

3. Faculty of this committee presented the following policy issues
   - Discussion continued from proposed amendments to the following 3 policies: (1) Op3.19-6 Comprehensive Examinations, (2) Op3.04-28 Grade Appeal and Academic Grievances, and (3) Op3.04-55 Clinical and Field Placements. The proposed amendments were to include language that allow faculty to respond to student comments throughout the appeals process for each policy.
     - The following revised language was reported added to these policies, "If, at any point in the appeal process, the student modifies the grounds for their appeal, or provides additional information that was not previously available, the faculty member(s) of record will be notified and will be given five (5) business days to review the additional information submitted by the student and to provide a written response to same."
       - Policy Op3.04-55 uses the language "Academic Unit Leader" versus "faculty member(s)" and it was reported this was a typing error that will be fixed.
     - For recording purposes, the appeals process for these policies will use the computer program (currently, Maxient) also used with student academic integrity issues.
   - Committee discussed Op3.04-11 Class Disruption
     - Issue about student and faculty safety was brought to the floor of the January 2024 session of the Faculty Senate. Part of that discussion included a faculty member wanting to remove the student from the course for being "disruptive."

- o Policy Op3.04-11 includes the following statement, "Ultimately, Faculty have original jurisdiction over the class and may deny a student who is disruptive the ability to attend the class." This policy does not appear to define "disruptive" or "disruption". Also, there are additional legal issues that must be considered before decisions on class attendance can be made.
  - o University administration and FSEC will continue to develop plans to address this issue, so it is not being considered by the Policy Review Committee.
- Committee discussed policies Op3.29 University Closure Policy and Faculty Handbook Policy 4.5.1.2 Meeting Classes
  - o The issue discussed was possible policy conflicts between the 2 policies, specifically with policy Op3.29 stating classes will move to remote learning when the university closes due to inclement weather and Faculty Handbook Policy 4.5.1.2 stating faculty deciding on "suitable alternative arrangements" when faculty do not meet with students during scheduled classes.
  - o Inclement Weather Procedure is an operational procedure tied to Op3.29. The following amendment to the procedure was proposed to address this issue.
    - o "c. Remote learning format – Remote learning includes, without limitation, conducting class virtually at the regularly scheduled time, assigning students an alternative online assignment, or posting alternative materials to the learning management system for students to watch/read/review."
  - o Following the scheduled meeting, additional comments were made about this proposed amendment; therefore, this issue is currently unresolved.