



Fall 01 Sep 2008

Annual Report 2007-2008

Academic Freedom & Standards Committee of the Missouri S&T Faculty Senate

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Subject: Annual Report 2007-2008

Date: September 1, 2008

To: Frank Blum, Chair
RP&A

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Faculty Senate's Standing Committee on Academic Freedom and Standards continued to maintain relentless vigilance over the academic freedom of the faculty and our academic standards.

Beginning in September, the committee monitored the progress of SB 389 as regards the academic freedom of faculty members. In January, the Chair was appointed to represent the committee on a Provost's Task Force to implement the procedures. So far, the procedures have been implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.

The Committee also had a continued referral concerning recommended changes to the SAR related to Attendance Policy. In April, the Committee decided to offer no further changes and the referral was closed.

In April, the committee also responded to an earlier referral to review policies and procedures related to student complaints about instructors, particularly with regard to protecting the rights of faculty.

As requested, the AFS committee reviewed the student complaint systems they were able to find: one addresses communication skills of faculty, the other harassment procedures. The two officials charged with administering these systems are Harvest Collier and Barb Prewett. In both instances, the committee chair spoke with the official and the officials indicated that they were particularly sensitive to faculty rights and seemed to demonstrate a healthy awareness of potential problems, which they both profess to have avoided with great care.

In the absence of any actual violations, and with the assurances of both officials to the contrary in mind, the committee's review expressed satisfaction with the status quo and asked that this referral be also closed.

Yours in Continued Relentless Vigilance,

W. Lance Haynes
Professor of Speech and Media Studies
Chair