

# DRAFT

## Minutes of the Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee Meeting

September 7, 2012

9:10 a.m., Ginger Hall, Room 503

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**Members Present:** Lola Aagaard (Chair), Marcia Cooper, Ken Henderson, Jennifer Little (Secretary), Gilbert Remillard, Robert Royar, Kimberly Sharp, Judith Stafford

The Committee met to discuss changes to the Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (FRRC) duties and responsibilities. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee requested that FRRC review its charge and description. The committee did this in light of the PAC-36 (Faculty Ombudsperson) denial of agreement by the Provost and the President. Kimberlee Sharp said that PAC-36 was passed by the Faculty Senate on May 12 and referred to the Provost.

The Provost commented in her response to Faculty Senate that:

“In concept, a neutral party to serve as a sounding board for faculty may be appropriate in certain situations. However, the University cannot transfer power to a faculty member for such purposes. If this is good for faculty, it should be applicable to all employees. After consultation with University Counsel, I cannot recommend this. KH 5/23/12.”

Kimberlee Sharp provided some history about this request for an ombudsperson. It was based on examples of faculty harassment that were not addressed adequately. She stated that there is a need for a neutral ombudsperson to direct faculty to. This would be someone who would monitor situations, and would be able to refer the dispute to a higher body. There are examples of ombudspersons at other universities, and Doug Chatham may have additional information.

Kimberlee mentioned Sharri Jones who works with students under Clarendia Phillips, VP for University Outreach.

Robert Royar said that there are joint meetings regarding an ombudsperson going on between Staff Congress and Faculty Senate. He said that Kentucky is a non-union state, but that does not mean that faculty cannot organize and pay dues. Universities with Boards of Regents have more restrictions than those with Boards of Trustees.

Ken Henderson suggested that one member of the FRRC should be an attorney. Jennifer Little mentioned that sometimes faculty who are attorneys may be asked by the President to work on university affairs.

There once was a chapter of the AAUP on campus. Jennifer Little suggested hiring an attorney through this organization.

The FRRC agreed that we need to find out how other universities handle this need for an ombudsperson and/or an attorney to represent faculty concerns. The Chairperson agreed to look into this and call another meeting.