APPROVED New Charges
October 19, 2017

Charge AAC NEW 1 Review Policy D05.1 for possible revision to remove the upper credit boundary.

Sue Provenzano writes, “the Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Award is governed by policy D05.1 – Academic Actions and Recognitions. The policy sets the minimum requirements for award as follows:

Minimum University Requirements

Must have completed 83-128 credit hours of work, of which not less than 45 hours must be in RIT grade-bearing courses.

Must have a cumulative GPA of 3.85 for all work completed at the university as of the previous spring term.

Over the past couple of years, we have noticed a problem with the upper boundary of credit (128) as it essentially makes BS/MS students or undergraduate students with significant transfer/AP credit ineligible for the award. Jeremy has been approving exceptions to the policy so that these students can be considered. To eliminate the extra work involved in manually checking these students and then Jeremy having to approve exceptions, could the Academic Affairs Committee review this section of the policy for possible revision to remove the upper credit boundary? We have checked with the Registrar’s Office and the upper boundary could be removed without creating other problems in identifying students who are eligible for the Award.

I know that charges may already be set for this year but it would be really helpful if this revision could be considered for next year’s candidates. For this year, we will continue to have Jeremy approve exceptions.”

Charge NEW 2 Identify ways to develop and improve the holdings of research materials (books, journals and other materials, print and electronic formats) of the RIT Libraries in order to support the needs of faculty and students as RIT continues to gain in stature as a research university.

Given RIT’s strategic commitment to improving its research profile and student success, review benchmark data comparing the Wallace Center’s capacities and resource base for supporting this commitment. Report the review of the data to the Senate during the spring 2017 semester and, if appropriate, make a recommendation.

Owen Gottlieb, GCCIS
Background:

As RIT enlarges its academic portfolio, including the addition of more Master’s and Ph.D. programs and the corresponding faculty positions to support those programs, the resources provided by the RIT Libraries lag behind the needs of faculty and students.

Identification of the need for additional space and staffing at the Wallace Center is described in the April 2017 report “Expanding the Core: Renovation and Expansion of The Wallace Center (TWC) at RIT.” Since this report’s purpose was to address physical space needs, an analysis of library materials themselves was not provided.

The Information Services Department (interlibrary loan) acquires documents, articles, papers and books that not held by the library for faculty and students. No library will ever maintain on site every resource needed. However, multiple faculty requests repeated for the same resources, increases in Ph.D. programs requiring in-depth resource coverage of those fields, and major resources required by new programs that are not presently supported here indicate the need for an examination of the library’s current portfolio of resources, its ability to maintain those resources, and an analysis of the financial support needed to raise the level of those resources to reflect the research needs of RIT.

As a secondary point to this charge, faculty input on the enhancement of existing services and collaboration opportunities provided by RIT Libraries, and the identification of desired services not present may be gathered and analyzed. This information will be utilized in the examination of future spaces and staffing needs.

The Director of RIT Libraries will be able to provide information concerning historical materials funding, benchmarking data on the amount of materials dollars per student FTEs, and an analysis of commonly requested resources by RIT faculty. A description of the current state and future trends of publishing and access models can also be provided.

In addition, specific input from program directors and chairs on the library resources required for the success of those disciplines—including accreditation—can be gathered. A survey of faculty may also be conducted to provide more granular feedback. This information will be compared to existing library resources.

If requested, a report to Academic Senate can be provided in spring semester 2017, and any recommended actions to be taken by the Senate can be identified for its consideration.
Charge FAC NEW 3  Revise the policy on Expedited Tenure to create a process by which a criminal background check is completed and cleared before Expedited Tenure is granted, consistent with existing policy. Request that Faculty Affairs Committee work together with appropriate University channels and report back to the Senate with their recommendations on February 1st, 2018.  *(THIS CHARGE WAS NOT VOTED ON BUT POSTPONED)*

Background: As the Democrat and Chronicle reported, an RIT Associate Professor was placed on leave on August 30th, 2017 due to a conviction related to soliciting a 15 year old girl in 2015. The associate professor joined RIT that same year and was granted expedited tenure shortly after. Our policies might be rewritten to prevent such a series of events from recurring.

Current Expedited tenure policy E05.0 link:

https://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/policiesmanual/e050#4- review process

Elena Sommers is championing this charge.

Charge FAC NEW 4 Review policy E6 VI.B and E6 VI.C for internal consistency

In VI.B., it is clear that after four years a lecturer is eligible to apply for promotion. However, per policy language, in VI.C., after four years, a senior lecturer is eligible for promotion. Period. As per my colleague, this could be interpreted as meaning that a senior lecturer could just “get” promoted – no application necessary. Perhaps the language in part “B” should be repeated in part “C”.  *(Policy excerpted below.)*

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E6. VI. Promotion to Senior Lecturer or Principal Lecturer

B. Promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer

1. Eligibility

At the time of hire as a full-time lecturer, an individual may receive up to two years of credit for teaching at RIT or another institution of higher education. Credit will be assessed based upon an equivalent full-time lecturer load. After four years of full-time teaching at RIT including any credits received, a lecturer is eligible to apply for promotion to senior lecturer. If promotion is granted, it will be awarded at the start of the following academic year.

C. Promotion from Senior Lecturer to Principal Lecturer

1. Eligibility

After four years of full-time teaching at RIT as a senior lecturer, an individual is eligible for promotion to principal lecturer. If promotion is granted, it will be awarded at the start of the following academic year.
Heidi Nickisher is championing this charge.

Charge AS/SA NEW 5: Investigate policies at other universities regarding a minimum time for students to consider job offers and make a recommendation concerning whether RIT should have such a policy.

Rationale: A number of other universities have policies that require employers to give students a specific minimum time to consider offers (and receive competing offers). Such policies appear to work well for their students, so a similar one might work well for ours as well.