

2017-18

Annual Report

Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Status of the Faculty

1. Members of CAFPS during 2017-2018

B. Gillian Turgeon (Chair, SIPS, CALS)
Kimberly O'Brien (CHE)
Ritchie Patterson (A&S)
Charles Seyler (ENG)
Paul Soloway (CHE)
Tracy Stokol (VET)
Bruce Van Dover (ENG)
Diane Burton (ILR)
Michael Scanlon (SIPS, CALS)
Chris Schott (undergraduate student)
Anna Waymack (graduate student, A&S)
Charles Van Loan (Dean of Faculty, ex officio)
Chris Schaffer (Associate Dean of Faculty, ex officio)

2. Activity during 2017-2018

- (In the previous year, on April 13, 2017, Dean of Faculty Van Loan, Associate Dean of Faculty Schaffer and CAFPS Chair Turgeon met with GPSA students to discuss to discuss the revised draft of GPSA Resolution 14 '*Consensual Relationships Policy Revisited.*' (Anna Waymack, and Nathaniel Stetson, graduate students, were part of this discussion). The GPSA was frustrated that CAFPS' revised Romantic Policy had not moved forward and a proposal was made to have the GPSA present their resolution/policy desires to the Faculty Senate in Fall 2017).
- A meeting of CAFPS was scheduled for Sept 12, 2017 to discuss the current *Consensual Relationships Policy* and the suggested changes to the policy made by CAFPS in previous years. This meeting was cancelled because Cornell President, Martha Pollack, had by then decided to form a new University committee (Consensual Relationships Policy Committee, chaired by Dean of Faculty Van Loan and senior graduate student Anna Waymack) whose sole responsibility would be to craft a new *Consensual Relationships Policy*. Several members of CAFPS, were appointed to the CRPC committee (Turgeon, O'Brien, Seyler, in addition to Waymack and Van Loan). Thus, the task of revising the *Consensual Relationships Policy* of 1996 was no longer a CAFPS responsibility.
- The main issue that CAFPS addressed during the 2017-18 period was committee responsibilities regarding faculty who appeal to the committee as a 'last stop' after receiving a negative/unsatisfactory decision following proscribed college grievance procedures.
- Turgeon met with DOF Van Loan Nov 10, 2017, to discuss the procedures regarding such cases.
- CAFPS met February 8, 2018 in anticipation of two cases being submitted to the committee. It was agreed that the Faculty handbook language regarding procedure needs to be simplified (<http://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/the-new-faculty-handbook/2-faculty-senate/2-2-standing-committees/committee-on-academic-freedom-and-professional-status-of-the-faculty/>). Section B of the charge to the committee is: *Receive and review written complaints brought by or*

against a Faculty member with respect to matters involving academic freedom and responsibility and freedom of teaching and learning and any other matters that might affect his or her professional reputation, impair the execution of his or her professional and University responsibilities, adversely affect his or her economic status, lead to his or her dismissal, or otherwise alter terms or conditions of his or her employment. However, for complaints that concern actions governed by Cornell Policies that prohibit, limit or define the review process by the Committee, the Committee's actions will be consistent with those policies. As of 2011, the policies that prohibit, limit or define Committee review are the Sexual Harassment Policy, the Financial Irregularities Policy, the Tenure and Promotions Appeal Process, and the Dismissal/Suspension Policy.

- Neither case was submitted to CAFPS in the end and a meeting scheduled for March 28, 2018 was cancelled