

2022-2023 Year-End Committee Report

Committee:	Handbook Committee
Charge:	Review Faculty Handbook and work on changes as required
Chair:	Kalyani Chadha
# of Meetings:	2

Completed Business and/or Accomplishments

The Faculty Handbook committee initially met in November 2022 to discuss potential issues. At the meeting, one faculty member raised questions about the faculty rights and responsibilities as contained in the handbook while another raised questions about the processes for updating the handbook. This resulted in a meeting in January 2023 with associate provost for faculty affairs, Sumit Dhar and deputy general counsel Priya Harjani who addressed the questions raised by the faculty member regarding the nature of the relationship of faculty to the university based on the handbook. The associate provost also agreed to help make the process of updates to the Faculty Handbook more transparent. Chair Kalyani Chadha communicated with Celina Flowers who said that she would ensure that detailed summary of edits was captured in the preamble letter and cover page of the most recent version of the Handbook and that this could serve as a repository of changes made to the document.

Unfinished/Continuing Business

The summarized updates to the Handbook have not yet been made, as far as we are aware. The chair has reached out to the associate provost's office in this regard.

New Business for Next Year

The Social Responsibility Committee approached the Faculty Handbook Committee in May 2023 to potentially work together on explicitly defining the notion of “service” in P&T cases to include community engagement. According to initial research conducted by Tricia England on behalf of the Social Responsibility Committee, university-wide policies and standards on P&T mention “service” but leave discretion to individual schools on how that is defined. Currently, Feinberg has the most visible way to include community engagement in P&T decisions through the submission of a community engagement portfolio. Since this request came in May 2023, the committee did not have the opportunity to take up this issue but it is important and merits investigation.