

## **Brief Summary of Committee Activities During the 2016/17 Academic Year**

During the last academic year, the Research Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate was involved in different activities, as spelled out in a little more detail below. More information can be found in written reports to the Faculty Senate provided by the Committee for the monthly Senate Meetings.

The committee met, roughly, every other month, while some discussion took place over email.

- A subset of the committee (A. de Gouvêa and J. Conley) served as part of the Copyright Committee. This committee was appointed jointly by the administration and the Faculty Senate – as defined by the current Copyright Policy – late in the Spring of 2016 in order to analyze, criticize, and potentially approve changes to the Faculty Copyright Policy, proposed by the administration – and later withdrawn – in the Fall of 2015.

The committee raised several questions around a new proposed Copyright Policy and engaged with INVO in order to address the concerns raised. After several meetings and rounds of the discussion, the new proposed Copyright Policy was tabled by the administration after it became clear that a new Provost would take over in the Fall of 2017. The issue will potentially come up again and the Copyright Committee will have to reconvene in order to evaluate any initiative to modify the existing Copyright Policy, as clearly spelled out in the existing policy.

- The committee drafted, in conjunction with the Office for Research, a set of Authorship Guidelines to be adopted by the University. The Authorship Guidelines were approved by the Faculty Senate in the May 2017 Meeting. Comments regarding the Authorship Guidelines, from Faculty and the Administration, were collected and archived.
- The committee discussed how the Graduate School handled the implementation of a new salary floor for graduate students, implemented in mid 2016. While everyone in the committee applauded the initiative, the committee had concerns about the implementation of the new rules – a rather “top-down” approach, no homogenous policy concerning how to handle the extra instantaneous expense on research grants that had been awarded prior to the rule

change, different schools and departments received different treatment, etc. This discussion did not rise to level of an “action item.”

- The committee discussed, very broadly, issues related to the allocation of Graduate Students to the different schools and departments. Again (see previous item), concerns were raised regarding the fact the TGS treats different schools and departments very differently, often providing what may be perceived as special treatment to some and ignoring requests from others. This discussion did not rise to level of an “action item” but may well resurface in the next academic year.