

4/19/'10

Motion on approval of committee actions and proposals

The following is based on my notes of what was more-or-less agreed to at a previous faculty meeting and will serve as a basis for a formal motion at the next meeting. I am still not entirely happy with the wording and, in particular, would like to have

- (a) some more definitive characterization of those committee actions which are to be viewed as 'pre-approved' (i.e., part of a committee's general authorization for normal functioning),
- (b) some procedure for an objection if it is felt that a committee action has been misclassified -- either as 'pre-approved' or as 'noncontroversial',
- (c) discussion of when the 'negative option' (approval if, within a limited time after e-mail presentation, there have not been objections) might be used when there is time pressure.

Moved:

1. We will distinguish between the 'standing' committees and such 'ad hoc' committees as will be established. [The standing committees will be enumerated in the departmental bylaws along with their authorized normal functions; ad hoc committees (including hiring and elections committees, but not P&T committees) will be established by regular procedures noting in advance which recommendations require further approval.]
2. If any committee is discussing possibly controversial topics, then the faculty should be informed and opportunity given for an open discussion (e.g., at a 'Town Hall' meeting) before any recommendation is presented at a Faculty Meeting for approval.
3. Committee recommendations requiring approval shall be provided by e-mail a week before the authorization (e.g., as part of the agenda for that meeting) with a brief statement of the rationale for the recommendation if that is deemed desirable. Such motions for approval require no second and, in the absence of objections, require no further

discussion before a vote.