

## Memorandum

**To:** Dr. Daniel Falvey, Chair of the Faculty Affairs

**From:** Kenneth G. Holum, Chair of the University Senate

**Date:** October 2, 2008

**Re:** Request to review need for Bereavement Leave for Librarians  
(Senate Doc. No. 08-09-005)

At its September 26, 2008, meeting, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) reviewed and discussed a request from a Libraries faculty member to review the need for a bereavement leave policy for faculty Librarians. Librarians who are faculty are still required to work a normal 40-hour week, much like staff. Bereavement leave has not been offered to other teaching and research faculty in the past because of the flexibility of their schedules. However, since Librarians have a more restricted schedule, they may have a need for bereavement leave. The SEC requests that the Faculty Affairs Committee review the need for a bereavement leave policy for this subset of librarians who are faculty, not for the faculty as a whole.

If possible, we request that the committee submit its recommendations to the Senate Office no later than Monday, December 1, 2008. If you have any questions regarding this charge, please contact Ms. Reka Montfort at x55804 or [reka@umd.edu](mailto:reka@umd.edu).

KH/rm

## **Excerpt from 8/25/08 SEC Meeting**

### **Agenda Item 11: Request from GSG for changes in policies of campus writing center (Action)**

- Miller-Hooks described that only undergraduates are currently allowed to use the services of the writing center.
- Wylie stated that the international students' center does not use University resources.
- Gulick stated that this could be cost prohibitive and it may be difficult to find the personnel to staff such a facility
- Miller-Hooks suggested that this request be forwarded to the Educational Affairs Committee for further review.
- Fries-Britt stated that she was fully supportive of writing resources for graduate students. She thinks the cost is nominal compared to the impact and is a potential win/win.
- Gulick asked that we expect these students to write specific to their discipline.
- Docherty asked who runs the Writing Center and how it is funded. He thought we should consider equity between how funding is handled for undergraduates.
- Wylie stated that space is also an issue. It will be difficult to find space on campus for a separate facility for the graduate students.
- Pease believes that the undergraduate center is the wrong place to send graduate students because it focuses on elementary principles of grammar. If we recommend that graduate students get writing assistance, it should be the responsibility of the Graduate School or individual colleges to provide this support.
- Tobiason said that the Director of the Writing Center was supportive of expanding the existing Center for graduate students assuming there were resources.
- Straszheim said that this would be a massive commitment. We need to look closely at how it can be provided.
- Ferraro stated that we should not be trying to teach writing but instead limit services to editing.
- Jenkins stated that there is a great need for this type of service.
- Falvey stated that the committee should set limitations.
- Gulick made a motion that this request be forwarded to the Educational Affairs Committee.
- Balthrop seconded the motion and added that the comments from the SEC should be sent to the committee along with the charge.
- Miller-Hooks stated that the excerpts from the minutes would be included in the charge.
- Fries-Britt suggested that the committee look at peer institutions for a model.
- Miller-Hooks requested a vote which was unanimously in favor.