



June 9, 2024

Re: Year-End Committee Report

Former Faculty Senate President Chicken asked me to serve as temporary chair of the Faculty Senate Grievance Committee in March of 2023. The previous chair, Professor Charles Nyce, had resigned upon being appointed chair of his department. The Faculty Senate Grievance Committee did not meet while I was Interim Committee Chair during the latter part of the 2022-2023 academic year, nor during the 2023-2024 academic year, during which I served as Interim Committee Chair at the request of Faculty Senate President Birmingham.

Shortly after accepting the Interim Chair appointment, during April, 2023, I appointed a Peer Panel to review an Intent to Terminate letter and associated documents presented to Professor Eric Stewart by a senior FSU HR director. By May, 2023, the Peer Panel members had completed their independent reviews and submitted letters summarizing their conclusions and recommendations. The Peer Panel members differed considerably in their views and recommendations. In brief, one felt that termination was appropriate, one thought a lesser penalty was appropriate, and the third thought that no disciplinary action was warranted. FSU President McCullough chose to terminate Professor Stewart.

In June of 2023, I received a copy of a letter from President McCullough to Dr. David Meckes, stating that President McCullough concurred with a recommendation that Dr. Meckes not be reinstated, and that this decision represented final agency action. This case arose prior to my Interim Chair role, and this letter was the first I knew of it. I can offer no further details on it.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jack Fiorito'.

Jack Fiorito, Interim Faculty Senate Grievance Committee Chair, and  
J. Frank Dame Professor of Management