

Recommendations for the creation of a Conflict of Interest Committee  
From the Committee on Committees  
March 2, 2009

The Academic Policy Council recommended to the Senate on May 15, 2008, that an administrative committee or board be established to provide guidance to administrators about issues related to conflict of interest, specifically conflicts involving the requirement of materials authored by UF faculty. The Committee on Committees was charged with determining the potential structure and composition of such a committee or board.

The recommendation is that such a unit be designated as an ad hoc committee to consist of 5 voting faculty members, 1 non-voting administrative liaison, and 1 non-voting student member. The committee would be convened to review cases and provide interpretation for the chief administrative officer who is trying to resolve such a conflict or determine if one exists.

After review of existing senate, standing, and joint committee structure and the assigned duties of these committees, the second recommendation is that the functional aspect of this committee be housed within the existing structure of the Academic Freedom Tenure Professional Relations and Standards Committee. There are established guidelines that manage the formation of a committee as part of the grievance hearing process for faculty and a similar process for the Health Science Center Student Conduct Standards Committee. The guidelines could be adapted to reflect the timeline and process for the Conflict of Interest review process.