Committee on Faculty Status  
Annual Report 2006-2007

Committee Membership: Jim Gibson (Law), Al Goethals (Leadership), Libby Gruner (A&S; Chair), Steve Tallman (Business), Ellen Walk (SCS)

The committee was convened for the first time this year in response to last year's recommendations by UFC and the University Faculty that the committee be formed to review and recommend positions for faculty status. At the request of a member of UFC we also developed guidelines for the committee to consult in the future.

We reviewed four positions for faculty status this year; three had previously held faculty status and one was a new position. All were recommended for faculty status and the status was confirmed by vote of the University Faculty. The four positions are:

1. Assistant Director of the WILL Program
2. Dean of Richmond College
3. Director of Common Ground
4. Director of Teaching and Learning

We also developed guidelines for the committee's future use. These guidelines (included below) closely track the recommendations of the UFC subcommittee which last year called for the formation of this committee, and are intended to assist the committee in reviewing and recommending positions for faculty status in the future.

GUIDELINES FOR FACULTY STATUS
The decision regarding faculty status for any given staff position needs to take into account four separate, but related, concerns. In general, our guideline was that "faculty status" should recognize staff involved with the kinds of things that faculty members do: teaching, curriculum development, and research.

1. The position must be involved with teaching. Teaching is not limited to classroom instruction, but may include advising on academic matters, working with students and/or faculty on pedagogical issues, and/or supporting and developing academic programs for students and faculty.

2. The position must be involved with curriculum and curriculum development (not simply the administration or monitoring of the curriculum). Again, while the position may not directly require the staff person to be involved with developing new courses, it should require some consideration of curricular matters beyond administering the curriculum: helping support curricular innovation, advising on curricular changes, etc.

3. The position must require or make use of research in the relevant field. This need not involve the "scholarship of discovery," or original research; it may, instead, involve the scholarship of teaching, synthesizing original research (or the scholarship of integration), and/or the scholarship of application.

4. In most cases, the position will also require a terminal degree.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Gruner
Chair