Faculty Meeting

October 2, 2015

Attendance: Li, Helfer, Segert, Chindris, Takeda, Walsh, Makarov, Pang, Weston, Tsoi, Verbitsky, Zhang, Aberbach, Tu, Montgomery-Smith, Grafakos, Cutkosky, Hofmann, Dostoglou, Srinivasan, Casazza, D. Mitrea, Edidin, Gesztesy, Asmar

Professor Asmar announced that there would be no hiring of regular faculty positions now or in the future, except for opportunity hires. Money from retiring positions will not come back to the department. We are 62 out of 62 in the SEC rankings for research. Opportunity hires are based on federal grant dollars and citations, and it appears a candidate must have about ½ million in grants at least.

We had Doug Cochran visit and give a talk a couple of weeks ago, and Professor Asmar had Foley look at his CV, and was encouraged to try for an opportunity hire. Professor Casazza spoke and indicated that he needs help in order to continue on. Cochran research is close to his area and could assist him with his grad students and postdocs. Cochran is good at writing grants that are accepted because he spent 7 years as a program officer.

Discussion:

There was discussion on what this means. Are we approving a candidate for hire getting approval for a positions?

We should fight for replacing faculty.

How is the ad written for the job, assuming it has to be advertised?

A few faculty thought there were red flags in Cochran's talk and that he didn't have mastery of his topic.

Would he have a full teaching load? Amar said there has been no talk of exception and he would certainly assist Pete.

Asmar encouraged the faculty to bring qualified candidates forward, and to have some action, or we are going to end up with a 3 course teaching load. Also, to start this and find out what the process is since we really don't know how it works.

There was a motion by SMS and second by Edidin to vote on taking the Cochran file to see if we can get an approval to hire for a position, and see what the process is:

The vote by secret ballot was 12 YES, 10 NO and 3 abstained.