PS Dept, Spring, 2020

In our 5/29/20 faculty meeting, the PS Department has approved the following resolutions. Please consider these effective immediately and note that these apply to all faculty members:

(1) Faculty whose scholarship or community engagement generates controversy should make a good faith effort to explicitly state that their views are not those of the Department or PSU when they write or speak in extramural settings.

By "extramural" we mean activities, primarily oral and written expression, that take place off-campus and outside the setting of an academic conference or workshop, and are not academic publications.

Please use the following statement (borrowed from the NIH):

This [explain activity] was prepared by [insert author's name] in his/her personal capacity. The opinions expressed in this (activity) are the author's own and do not reflect the views of the Political Science Department of Portland State University.

(2) When faculty are aware that particular extramural speeches or writing are likely to generate negative reactions, they should inform the Department Chair.

The intention here is that the Department Chair not be blind-sided by protests or other demands for attention, especially when this may hamper pending departmental business.

- (3) If a faculty members feels that the PS Department should produce and publicize an official department statement in response to another faculty member's work, the following procedure should be followed:
 - a. The faculty member(s) who feels a response from the department is necessary begins the process by emailing the chair with a draft of the proposed statement and a copy of the extramural writing/activity that the statement is referring to.
 - b. The chair emails the statement to the full faculty and notifies them of the request, with the exception of the person that the statement refers to.
 - c. The chair creates a Google Doc that allows faculty members (with the exception of the faculty member who is the subject of the statement) to offer suggestions for revision and comments on the statement. The chair should manage these suggestions in an effort to find consensus, if possible.
 - d. The chair emails PSU Office of General Counsel and requests a review of the revised statement.
 - e. Following the receipt of the approved statement from General Counsel, the chair sends the statement to the faculty member whose work is the subject of the statement. That faculty member is invited to offer a written response to the statement which will be shared with the full faculty.
 - f. After receiving the response (or, if the faculty member chooses not to respond, then moving forward without it), the chair provides the final draft of the statement and as well as the response (if created) to the full faculty and calls a vote of the faculty. The vote on the final statement is online and anonymous. In order for the department to post the statement, a supermajority (2/3rds) of the faculty must vote in favor.

Please note: the statement is not an official censure.