

Faculty Council sends consensual sex policy back to committee

Profs say draft is foolish insult

By ANGELA CURTIS
Managing Editor

The director of the committee revising a consensual sex policy draft says she is pleased the UI Faculty Council didn't table the proposal altogether.

"I'm pleased they sent it that far and that there's still hope," said Affirmative Action Committee Chairperson Jan Scott in a Thursday afternoon interview.

Not without protest, the Faculty Council voted to return the policy to the affirmative action

committee for revisions before making a final decision.

"I'll filibuster if it comes down to it," said Professor of Law James Macdonald. "I object to the whole thing — it's foolish."

The policy questioned faculty members' professionalism, said Nelson Curtis, professor of art.

"We know what's professional," Curtis said. "That probably has a lot to do with why we're here."

Affirmative action drafted the policy after noticing problems last year, Scott said.

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Incoming faculty members need to be warned that consensual

relationships are inappropriate, said Betsy Thomas, director of the UI Women's Center.

"I get calls from other faculty members and department heads asking how to tell their peers that students are not necessarily grazing material," Thomas said.

And what do department heads tell new faculty members?

"Be celibate until you leave," Curtis said.

Taking the policy a step further would eliminate friendships between professors and students, said Professor of Economics Michael DiNoto.

"What's the line between friendship and romance?" Mac-

donald asked.

Sex, according to Scott.

The draft was finally resubmitted for revisions in wording.

"I support the intent," said Associate Professor of Education Pat White. "I don't agree with the language."

White said that the College of Education provides its faculty with cautionary handouts explaining the improprieties of consensual relationships, as well as discussing them.

Scott said she is unsure of what changes will be made until the committee meets at the end of the month.