

Commission on Faculty Affairs
September 16, 2016
10:30 – 12:00 Noon
130 Burruss Hall

In attendance: Hans Robinson, chair; Laurie Brogdon, Jack Davis, Jack Finney, Leon Geyer, Deborah Good, James Spotila, Phillip Young.

Absent with notice: Gregory Amacher, Velva Groover, Joe Merola, Cheryl Montgomery, Elizabeth Spiller, Anne Zajac. No appointment recorded for undergraduate student representative.

Guest: Ellen Plummer

I. Welcome and Introductions

Commission members introduced themselves and welcomed new members. The commission continues to expect an undergraduate student representative.

2. Approval of September 9, 2016 Minutes

A quorum was confirmed and the minutes were approved unanimously.

***3. CFA Resolution 2016-17A (UDP/ADP)**

*First Reading

Discussion regarding the language in resolution for selection and appointments for ADPs and UDPs. Edits were made to the resolution and will be sent to the Senate for review before the commission's second reading scheduled for September 30, 2016.

4. Discussion of CFA Work Plan/Schedule

Review of commission's work plan and prioritizing of action items: distinction between work items that require faculty discussion and those that can be taken care of with a resolution that outlines mere edits to policy or to the faculty handbook.

Ombuds. The university ombuds proposal continues to be worked on by a committee led by Faculty Senator Diane Zahm. At the appropriate time, the commission will consider a resolution to support the creation of the ombuds in conjunction with other commissions.

Collegiate Professors. Senate and commission to identify a workgroup and bring necessary items for approval in resolution format.

Restricted Faculty promotion process. Hans Robinson will invite Sam Easterling and other appropriate faculty members to the commission to discuss the interest in outlining a promotion process for faculty members on restricted appointments.

Promotion and Tenure. Hans Robinson will invite Joe Merola to lead discussion regarding the drafting of a resolution to change from spring to fall the timing of appeals of tenure decisions. In addition, the resolution can state clearly that appeal is not available to individuals who apply for tenure prior to the mandatory year. The provost's office is researching associate professor with tenure hiring processes at other institutions and will share results with the commission. If a work group is established, it is recommended that it include representation from each college, from senate, and diversity within the colleges also. Asking college deans to recommend appointments to the work group will provide a variety of perspectives.

Libraries. Faculty members in the libraries will work with the office of the provost to review promotion and continued appointment language. Changes requiring discussion will be brought to the commission before the December 2nd meeting.

Language and Culture Institute. The provost's office is meeting with the LCI and will recommend that the LCI bring a resolution to the commission and be prepared to discuss the requested changes to the faculty handbook.

VTCSchool of Medicine. The provost's office continues to work closely on all aspects of the integration of the school of medicine. The commission will be informed of necessary policy and other changes for discussion as appropriate.

Research Faculty. The provost's office is working with the research division to identify necessary changes to policies that impact research faculty. If appropriate, changes will be brought to the commission as information items and/or for action.

Commission members discussed the importance of confirming that faculty members who are appointed to represent the Faculty Senate on committees and commissions be confirmed by the Senate as currently active senators.

The commission adjourned at 12:10 pm.