

Minutes
Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 17, 2023
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Burruss 330E and Zoom

Commission Members Present: E. Plummer (presiding), D. Agud (Faculty Senate), R. Fricker (ex officio), L. Learman (Dean), J. Lemkul (Faculty Senate), R. Miles (Faculty Senate), V. Kraak (Faculty Senate), E. Kaufman (Faculty Senate), T. Pingel (Faculty Senate), L-A. Krometis (Faculty Senate), N. Connors (A/P Faculty Senate).

Absent with Notice: R. Queen, J. Merola (Faculty Senate), E. Lavender-Smith (Faculty Senate), A. Lee (Undergrad Senate rep), R. Blieszner (Dean).

Absent: Grad/Prof Senate rep., Staff Senate rep.

Guests: A. Myers, (Office of the VP for Governance and Policy), E. Kim (Faculty Affairs, Provost Office)

Quorum: E. Plummer called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. A quorum was present (50%+1 of current membership = 8).

1. Adoption of Agenda. Members of the commission voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

2. Approval of January 20, 2023, Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and minutes were approved.

3. Reports from Senates.

Faculty Senate

Discussion topics from the previous Faculty Senate meeting included the IT policy regarding cybersecurity and two resolutions that were approved, including shared governance and updates from the Commission on Graduate and Professional Studies on the MS in Applied Data Science.

A/P Faculty Senate

Discussion topics from the previous A/P Faculty Senate meeting primarily included the IT policy, as well as reviews of the A/P grievance procedures. Additional discussions about policy and procedures are planned for the following meeting.

4. Old Business. Update on Faculty Handbook Review Processes. Faculty affairs and the governance office continue to review possible improvements to the structure and format of the faculty handbook. A future small working group will provide support to review possible revisions. This working group will not preempt the role of CFA, Faculty Senate, or any other group. Faculty Affairs is still in the early stages of creating this group and plans to invite all kinds of faculty (e.g., tenure track, instructors, clinical) to ensure they receive everyone's opinions and perspectives.

5. New Business.

A. CGPSA 22-23A Resolution to Expand Access to Reproductive Care at Virginia Tech. The commission considered the resolution and collected comments. Comments include the importance of consulting medical professionals on the recommendation of specifically named medications. Additionally, two editorial changes were suggested to potentially help move the resolution through the process: adding language about Virginia Tech as a public institution that engages in activity to the extent allowable by law, and, removing emotionally/politically charged language such as the reference to Roe v. Wade from the resolution such that the resolution remains focused on its primary objective to expand access to health care.

B. CUSA 22-23A Resolution to Approve Revisions and Updates to the Virginia Tech Code of Conduct. Members of the CFA discussed revisions requested by the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs (CUSA) for the Virginia Tech Student Code of Conduct. E. Plummer opened the floor to any information that might be needed prior to the first reading of the resolution at the next meeting. One editorial suggestion was made to change “repel” to “rappel” on Page 2, and another content-related suggestion was made to include language regarding digital media use.

6. Open Discussion. No items were considered in Open Discussion.

7. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:08am.

Next meeting: March 17, 2023 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.