

Minutes
Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 9, 2023
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Burruss 330E and Zoom

Commission Members Present: J. Lemkul (presiding)

D. Agud (Faculty Senate), D. Alcorn (Undergrad Student Senate), C. Bartel (Staff Senate), N. Connors (A/P Senate), R. Fricker (ex officio Provost's Office), R. Gaines (Faculty Senate), J. Hawdon (Faculty Senate), R. Jin (Faculty Senate), L-A. Krometis (Faculty Senate), E. Lavender-Smith (Faculty Senate), L. Learman (Dean), L. Liu (Dean), R. Miles (Faculty Senate), R. Panneton (Faculty Senate), M. Webb (Grad/Prof Student Senate).

Absent with Notice: N/A

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Guests: E. Kim (Faculty Affairs/Provost's Office), D. Harris (Policy and Governance), E. Plummer (Faculty Affairs/Provost's Office).

Quorum: J. Lemkul called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. A quorum was present (50%+1 of current membership = 8).

1. Welcome and Introductions.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda. Members of the commission voted unanimously to adopt the agenda via PollEverywhere.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2024. A motion was made, seconded, and minutes were approved with a revision to the list of attendees via PollEverywhere.

4. Reports from Senates.

- A/P Faculty Senate: No Report.
- Staff Senate: At the next meeting, BOV member E. Baine will speak. The next Senate agenda also includes feedback about leave policy and the introduction of a new resolution to set up a task force to look into staff stipends.
- Grad/Prof Senate: The Senate is preparing for upcoming elections and will discuss proposed revisions to UC bylaws at the next meeting.
- Undergraduate Senate Report: No Report.
- Faculty Senate: The Senate held the first reading of CFA 23-24B and is preparing a comment on the revision to the UC bylaws.

5. Old Business.

a. Update on CFA 2023-2024A. J. Lemkul informed the commission that CFA 2023-2024A (the first resolution of the new year) was approved by the University Council.

b. Second Reading: CFA 2023-2024B Resolution to Revise Extension Faculty Tracks. J. Lemkul informed the commission that the resolution received no comments at the Faculty Senate reading and is likely to move forward without issue. A motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to approve CFA 2023-2024B.

6. **New Business.**

- a. **First Reading: CFA 2023-2024C Resolution to Form a Task Force to Study Instructor Workloads and Salaries.** J. Lemkul provided an overview of the 2023-2024C resolution. The task force will report to the President and Provost, with a broad goal of collecting information and formulating recommendations. The task force will determine the scope of this study, so predetermined factors (e.g., comparison to peer institutions, funding/budgetary sources) will not be added to the resolution. However, commission members agreed to incorporate a temporal deadline with an upper-limit and change the language of the “NRV” to include a broader geographic area that incorporates the associated reach of VT. J. Lemkul will incorporate these suggestions and deliver the resolution to the Faculty Senate Cabinet.
- b. **Discussion on proposed revisions to Faculty Handbook regarding procedures for nominating University Distinguished Professors.** R. Fricker provided an overview of the current processes to nominate and select UDPs and recommended creating an additional nomination pathway via recognition from the President/Provost. In cases where a faculty member may be recognized nationally/internationally or receive a significant honor, it may be worthwhile to create a simplified nomination process without going through the colleges. Commission members agreed with this suggestion and proposed that the process be applied for Alumni Distinguished Professors (ADPs) as well. J. Lemkul will prepare this resolution for the University Council Cabinet.

7. **Open Discussion.**

- a. **Overview of CFA 2023-24 Resolutions.** J. Lemkul informed the commission that there will be three to four draft resolutions that are upcoming, and that members will likely be voting on something every week.
- b. **Elements.** R. Miles requested that Elements include more unique document types to the platform. R. Fricker replied that change requests can be sent to the Faculty Affairs office.
- c. **Resolution to Endorse Research Metrics Statement 2023-2024E.** R. Miles presented the first draft of the resolution. Commission members agreed that this resolution supported the land grant mission of Virginia Tech and was sufficient to provide a scope for the University Council Cabinet.

8. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:57 am.

Next meeting: February 23, 2024.