

Minutes
Commission on Faculty Affairs
April 05, 2024
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), R. Fricker (ex officio Provost's Office), R. Gaines (Faculty Senate), R. Jin (Faculty Senate), E. Lavender-Smith (Faculty Senate), L. Liu (Dean), R. Miles (Faculty Senate), R. Panneton (Faculty Senate), M. Webb (Grad/Prof Student Senate).

Absent with Notice: J. Hawdon (Faculty Senate), L-A. Krometis (Faculty Senate)

Absent: N/A.

Guests: E. Kim (Faculty Affairs/Provost's Office), D. Harris (Policy and Governance), A. Myers (Policy and Governance), D. Day (AVP Presidential Priorities in Advancement)

Quorum: J. Lemkul called the meeting to order at 10:31 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 March 22, 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 updates.
- Staff Senate: No updates.
- Undergraduate Senate Report: Senators voted to schedule a discussion on a statement regarding the situation in Gaza. The cabinet postponed this discussion and senators decided to open a special community session for undergraduate students on the topic.
- Grad/Prof Senate: GPSS approved the statement on the situation in Gaza.
- Faculty Senate: A second reading was held for CFA 2023-2024D and 2023-2024E, both of which were passed. Faculty Senate had a first reading for 2023-2024F and 2023-2024G, at which no concerns were raised. Commission on Research suggests exploring a revised statement on the use of research metrics in the future. L.A. Krometis resigned from Faculty Senate and therefore CFA.

5. Old Business.

- a. **Second Reading: CFA 2023-2024F Resolution To Revise Faculty Handbook Language On Nominations To University Distinguished Professor And Alumni Distinguished Professor.** No discussion was raised. A motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to approve CFA 2023-2024F.
- b. **Second Reading: CFA 2023-2024G Resolution To Update The Faculty Handbook Description Of Expectations For Promotion And Tenure.** In response to a comment from Staff Senate, J. Lemkul reiterated that the intended changes in this resolution are specific to CVM and VTCSOM. There being no further discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to approve CFA 2023-2024G.

6. New Business

- a. **Discussion on Global Distinction Initiative.** R. Fricker provided background information on two related presidential priorities: VT Advantage and Global Distinction. He then opened for discussion on the interim report that was distributed. Overall concerns voiced by CFA members included the overt focus on tenure-track faculty over other constituent groups (staff, students), and the need for improved communication and messaging around the goals of both priorities. More specific concerns over the content of the report included the unequal incentivization of international research compared to community engagement, greater funding for open publication, and clarification of the second bullet point on page 14. Finally, CFA members believe the initiative should refocus some of their goals to emphasize teaching as a virtue (as opposed to a burden) and to highlight the difficulties these initiatives may unintentionally place onto support staff.

7. Open Discussion

- a. R. Fricker raised the potential of creating a statement of civility for relevant meetings. This sentiment was met with support from CFA members.

8. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:04 pm.