

MINUTES

**Commission on Faculty Affairs
February 13, 2026
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
330E Burruss and Zoom**

Present – J. Hawdon (presiding), R. Fricker (ex officio), K. Pitts (Dean, COS), L. Learman (Dean, VTCSOM), R. Jin (Faculty Senate), D. Agud (Faculty Senate), J. Johnson (DHEC), R. Miles (Faculty Senate), R. Weaver-Hightower (Faculty Senate), A. Hagan (Staff Senate), M. Ryan (Grad Senate), Sean O’Keefe (alternate for J. Lahne)

Absent with Notice: K. Benson (Faculty Senate), E. Roshioru (Undergrad Senate), R. Emmett (AP Senate), J. Lahne (Faculty Senate)

Guests: S. Kalmar (Provost’s Office), A. Myers (Governance), R. Gabriele (Provost’s Office), Lynn Byrd (COR)

J. Hawdon called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM. A quorum was present (50%+1 of current membership = 9).

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the February 13, 2026 agenda. Motion carried without objection.

2. Approval or Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of [date of last meeting].

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 30, 2026 minutes. Motion carried without objection.

3. Reports

- A/P Faculty Senate – R. Emmett: No updates given, rep not present
- Staff Senate – A. Hagan: No updates given, senate has not met since last CFA meeting
- Undergraduate Student Senate – E. Roshioru (absent): No updates
- Graduate Student Senate – M. Ryan: Most recent meeting with President Sands, open Q&A. Housing, cost of living, and new strategic plan for VT top discussion points.
- Faculty Senate – J. Hawdon: Two cusp resolutions approved, one CFA resolution on appeals process approved, all moved to UC for approval. Next week’s meeting will include Provost Ross and President Sands.

4. Unfinished Business

Endorsement of COR 2025-26A Resolution

J. Hawdon presented the COR 2025-26A Resolution on non-professional rank structure in the Faculty Handbook for endorsement and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. Commission members discussed the reclassification structure of research faculty and any additional improvements. A request was made to provide the link for the documentation informing the policy, and it was noted to be included in the shared final draft. A vote was taken on the motion, and the motion passed, endorsing the resolution without objection. J. Hawdon to provide supporting letter to be attached to COR 2025-26A.

Second Read CFA 2025-26G Resolution

J. Hawdon presented the CFA 2025-26A Resolution on revision of Faculty Handbook section on sanctions for second reading and made a motion to approve. The motion was seconded. Commission members discussed several major points of concern, such as timeline specifications for the process, language discrepancies, and defining sanctions and responsibilities of associated parties more clearly. A vote was taken on the motion, and the motion passed with 8 votes for, 1 vote against, and 1 vote abstaining.

5. New Business

First Read CFA 2025-25H Resolution

J. Hawdon presented the CFA 2025-26H Resolution on promotion expectations for non-tenure track faculty for first reading. Commission members discussed the language on referring to departmental expectation guidelines that was adopted from P&T section language. No questions or comments were brought to attention.

First Read CFA 2025-25I Resolution

J. Hawdon presented the CFA 2025-26I Resolution on part-time faculty section of Faculty Handbook for first reading. Commission members discussed the re-arranging of existing language and potential adjustments to be made. Specific adjustments discussed were on special leave for pre-tenure as a way to address part-time restrictions, but it was decided this would be a later topic for the commission instead of part of the existing resolution.

First Read CFA 2025-25L Resolution

J. Hawdon presented the CFA 2025-26L Resolution on revisions for clinical instructor rank section of Faculty Handbook for first reading. Commission members discussed the change of striking the minimum five year in place requirement for promotion from clinical faculty to mirror recent changes for collegiate faculty. No questions or comments were brought to attention.

6. Open Discussion

No concerns or points of discussion were brought to attention in open discussion by commission members.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 PM.