

Minutes
Commission on Faculty Affairs
January 22, 2021
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Videoconference

Present: Bob Hicok (presiding), M. Abbas (Faculty Senate), S. Barrett (Faculty Senate), A. Bond (CAPFA), J. Finney (Provost, ex officio), D. Givens (Dean), J. Hawdon (Faculty Senate), T. Schenk (Faculty Senate), R. Sebek (Staff Senate), C. Thompson (Graduate Student Assembly), R. Weiss (Faculty Senate).

Vacancy: SGA

Absent: R. Blythe (Dean), D. C. Myers (Faculty Senate), A. Nelson (Faculty Senate), A. Shew (Faculty Senate),

Guests: L. Byrd (OVPRI), D. Musick (VTCSOM), L. Miner (OVPRI), A. Myers (Governance), E. Plummer (Provost), B. Shadle (attending for Amy Nelson).

B. Hicok called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present (50%+1 of current membership = 8).

1. **Approval of Agenda.** Members of the commission moved and voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Members of the commission moved and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2020 meeting.
3. **2nd reading of CFA 2020-21C.** Commission members discussed the resolution to revise shared governance at Virginia Tech. Questions regarding representation on University Council were discussed. The commission voted unanimously to approve resolution CFA 2020-21C.
4. **2nd reading of CFA 2020-21D.** Commission members moved and voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2020-21D to clarify probationary reappointment language in the faculty handbook.
5. **Discussion of Faculty Senate policy oversight.** Commission members reviewed the role and oversight of proposed Faculty Senate committees. Commission members discussed the roles of Faculty Senate committees and the relationship between the Office of the Provost and the committees. For example, the Faculty Handbook Committee would work closely with the Office of the Provost. Changes to the work of the senate include adding two faculty mediators, establishing a Faculty Handbook committee and establishing a process within the senate to review its committees. J. Finney stated his support for the ideas outlined in the document. The proposed oversight structure will be discussed by members of the Faculty Senate with legal counsel.

- 6. Tenure for VTCSOM faculty employed by Virginia Tech.** B. Hicok shared with the commission that the VTCSOM is interested in having the university award tenure to university-employed faculty members. D. Musick, senior dean for faculty affairs in the VTCSOM, added that the request for tenure would occur in two non-clinical departments: inter-professionalism and basic science education. S. Barrett, faculty in the VTCSOM, shared that the faculty are in enthusiastic support and will welcome tenure opportunities for retention and recruitment of outstanding faculty to these departments. Conversations are under way with legal counsel and with accreditation agencies to ensure all processes are understood and supported.
- 7. Other Business.** Commission members discussed the various ways in which teaching is being reviewed and evaluated during the pandemic. There are variations between departments and colleges. One option remains for teaching be left unevaluated during this time.
- 8. Adjourn.** There being no further business the commission moved and unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 11:15.

Next meeting is February 19, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.