

Minutes
Commission on Faculty Affairs
December 4, 2020
Meeting Held Electronically 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Present: M. Abbas (Faculty Senate), R. Blythe (Dean), A. Bond (CAPFA), J. Finney (Provost, ex officio), D. Givens (Dean), J. Hawdon (Faculty Senate), B. Hicok (Chair), D. C. Myers (Faculty Senate), A. Nelson (Faculty Senate), T. Schenk (Faculty Senate), R. Sebek (Staff Senate), A. Shew (Faculty Senate), C. Thompson (Graduate Student Assembly), R. Weiss (Faculty Senate)

Vacancy: SGA

Members Absent: S. Barrett (Faculty Senate)

Guests: L. Byrd (OVPRI), A. Myers (Governance), E. Plummer (Provost)

1. **Approval of Agenda.** Members of the commission unanimously approved the agenda for the meeting.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Members of the commission unanimously approved the minutes of the November 20, 2020 meeting.
3. **Discussion of Faculty Senate grievance committees and the grievance process.** Commission members discussed the shared governance proposal and whether there ought to be adjustments to Faculty Senate committees: Reconciliation, Ethics, and Review. Commission members considered the following:
 - committee reporting line(s) i.e. chair of committee “reporting” to Senate president? or other? What about confidentiality?
 - training and support for chairs and members of committees that address faculty concerns and/or grievances
 - reconsider committee structure in light of current and future roles, particularly in light of University Ombuds and role of provost’s office in faculty concerns
 - retaining a faculty “ombuds-like” function in the Faculty Senate that might include two or three individuals (rather than the current model of having only one person in the role); establish transparent and inclusive processes for selecting the individual(s) for the role, and not exclusively based on formal role such as department head.
 - Articulate the scope of responsibilities for the Faculty Senate Committee on Ethics and the research integrity office in the OVPRI

Commission members discussed current grievances processes.

4. **Other Business.** Commission members reviewed adjustments in the scholarship section of P+T revision are some adjustments based on conversation with deans and will come up for a vote in UC on Monday.

Hicok shared information from meeting with Kay Heidbreder regarding the nature of the Faculty Handbook. The handbook is approved annually by the Board of Visitors and is an extension of the faculty Terms of Faculty Offer (TOFO). The handbook is binding as are university policies.

A question was raised about whether there might be reason to adjust the language in the Faculty Handbook on faculty authored textbooks in light of the university's commitment to open access materials.

5. Adjourn. There being no further business the commission meeting adjourned at 11:20.

Next meeting is January 22, 2021 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.