

**Commission on Faculty Affairs**  
**Minutes**  
**September 23, 2011**

Members attending: Sarah Karpanty (Chair), Jack Finney, Alan Grant, Rich Sorensen, Bruce Pencek, John Massey, Brad Klein, Tyler Arthur (SGA Rep), Eric Vance, Matt Chan (GSA), Woody Farrar

Guests attending: 7 graduate students: Heidi McCoy, Mike Kutnak, Nicole Johnson, Dakota Farquhar-Caddell, Ali Stowe, Jeremy Harmon, Kaitlin Heenehan

The meeting was called to order by Sarah Karpanty, Chair, who distributed the agenda with three items:

1. Approval of agenda from September 9.
2. Report on VT Health Committee – Jack Finney
3. Committee Appointments by CFA – Sarah Karpanty

1. Approval of minutes: The minutes were unanimously approved from September 9, 2011.
2. Report on VT Health Committee. Jack Finney presented the draft findings of the Virginia Tech Health Committee, which was authorized in Fall 2010 by the BOV. The general purpose of the presentation was to summarize the process and initial findings of the committee on the topic of how Virginia Tech should strategically organize itself in the field of Health Sciences. The discussion included the following topics:
  - a. Several individuals offered suggestions on how to better organize the presentation of the recommendations in future presentations. Namely, the presentation now builds to a point where the audience is expecting the major recommendation to be the formation of a Division of Health Sciences and then the latter part of the presentation communicates why the committee does not recommend a division, and all the cons to a division. The recommendation might be to upfront make it clear what the recommendations are and focus on the positive aspects of the recommendations, not why we are not doing a Division of Health Sciences.
  - b. One of the Committee's recommendations is to appoint a new Director of Health Sciences. A comment was noted that given tightening resources, could the current institute directors assume this responsibility, either as a shared or rotating position?
  - c. Regarding the recommendation on forming a Faculty of Health Sciences, several comments and questions were raised. What precedent might this set for other faculties at VT? Would there be a role for VCOM faculty or other outside faculty to join?
  - d. The question on timing was raised. Jack Finney shared that he is uncertain of the timeline for implementation of these recommendations.
  - e. A comment was made that the Core Research Services that might be part of a new Health Sciences initiative would be beneficial to faculty across the campus if the cost structure allows.
  - f. A question was raised as to how the current medical school initiative with Carilion would fit into this new Health Sciences initiative.
  - g. A question was raised as to even though the committee is not currently recommending a Division, is it anticipated that this effort might grow into a Division or College?

*h.* A question was raised as to whether the university is also considering a strategic initiative in the area of a law school. A general response was that there are no serious discussions about such a topic at this point that anyone on the CFA is aware.

3. Committee Appointments by CFA.

- a. CFA representation needed on two committees, the Employee Benefits Committee (1 person, 1 year) and the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (1 person, 1 year)
- b. Employee Benefits Committee: Jack Finney self-nominated and CFA approved this nomination.
- c. CEOD: Both Alan Grant and Brad Klein self-nominated as they also sit on CEOD currently, and CFA approved that both individuals would represent CFA interests on that committee.

4. New Business.

None

5. Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recorder, Sarah Karpanty