

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Minutes
November 30, 2012

Members Attending: Joe Merola (Chair), Brad Klein, Roy Abernathy, Velva Groover, Alan Grant, Sarah Karpanty, Connie Stoval, Erik Vance, and Rich Sorensen.

The Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) meeting was called to order by Joe Merola, Chair, who distributed the agenda with two items.

1. The role of research faculty in faculty governance.
2. New business

1. The role of research faculty in faculty governance

Joe Merola informed members that William Knocke had previously chaired a task force that conducted a survey of research faculty. The results from the survey revealed, among other things, that research faculty members were feeling disconnected from other faculty. This was partly due to the fact that most of them were operating offsite in research centers or institutions and not in academic departments. Research faculty therefore expressed a need to be involved in university governance.

CFA members discussed and noted that the university statutes and faculty senate by laws have excluded research faculty as members of the Faculty Senate. The main reason was the role of the Faculty Senate, which was to deal mainly with academic matters. The issue at hand was if and how can the university can include research faculty members with institute or research center affiliation in the governance system.

Members noted that some research faculty members are currently members of the Faculty Senate by virtue of their research appointment being in an academic department. They therefore represent the academic department in the Faculty Senate. (Note: current university by laws do not distinguish research faculty members whose appointments are in institutes, centers, or academic departments.)

Members discussed the possibility of changing the wording in the university by laws to include research faculty or create a commission that deals with research faculty matters. CFA members resolved that the matter be referred to the Commission on Research which is the lead commission on the matter and that the Commission on Research develop a proposal for ways to broaden participation of research faculty in the governance system.

2. New business

There was not new business.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on January 25, 2013.

Recorder, Maxwell Awando