

**Commission on Faculty Affairs
Minutes
December 11, 2009**

Members attending: Mike Ellerbrock (chair), Debbie Smith, Jack Finney (for Dean Chang), Sam Riley, Tami Watson, Bruce Pencek, Paul Winistorfer, Dennis Welch, and Patricia Hyer

Guests: Tom Inzana, Associate Vice President for Research Programs, Ken Miller, Controller; Bill Knocke, W. Curtis English Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department; Bob Jones, Department Head, Biological Sciences Department; Hardus Odendaal, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department; Joe Eska, Professor, English Department

Agenda for the meeting included three items: revisions to policy 6200: Research Extended Appointments, resolution for accelerated undergraduate/graduate degree program, and state retirement benefits.

The minutes of the CFA meeting on November 13, 2009, were approved without change.

Revisions to Policy 6200: Research Extended Appointments

Tom Inzana briefed CFA members about policy 6200 changes. The revisions adjust the funding stream for research reflecting actual effort throughout the calendar year rather than just the summer. The working committee charged with revising the policy held three university wide forums during the summer to share information and seek input on proposed strategies. This was followed by four heavily attended sessions for faculty, department heads and fiscal personnel in November and December. Revisions to policy 6200 were discussed in both the Commission on Research and CFA prior to approval by the Board of Visitors in November. The changes were then taken directly to the Board to make sure the policy was in compliance with federal law as soon as possible and in advance of the scheduled educational sessions for faculty. Other policies are being revised to ensure federal compliance, such as Policy 3105: Effort Certification.

Hardus Odendaal recognized the committee's efforts while reporting that Faculty Senate members felt as if the policy change had bypassed the university governance process. Faculty Senate members would like to be more involved in crafting policies that impact them. In an effort to promote communication, Mike Ellerbrock, chair of CFA and Vice President of the Faculty Senate, invited the working committee to attend the next Faculty Senate meeting to brief the larger group on the federal contract compliance issues being addressed.

Resolution for Accelerated Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Program

Joe Eska updated CFA members on the Commission on Graduate Studies and Policies (CGSP) resolution for the Graduate School to administer an UG/G accelerated program that would supplant the current Five Year (Honors) Bachelors-Masters program and the Open Bachelors-Masters program. One CFA member expressed concern that the program may negatively impact students that are dual enrolled. Another CFA member was apprehensive about unprepared undergraduate students enrolling in graduate courses to the detriment of graduate students. Eska will draft a response to CFA members' concerns prior to the next CFA meeting.

State Retirement Benefits

Patricia Hyer suggested that CFA members be aware of proposed state legislation to change retirement benefits. Because of the Commonwealth's budget crisis several modifications to retirement benefits are being explored including employee contribution to retirement and changes in age of eligibility.

Recorder, Cindy Wilkinson