

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Minutes
January 27, 2012

Members Attending: Sarah Karpanty (Chair), Jack Finney, Connie Stovall, Robena Hughes, John Massey, Bruce Pencek, Alan Grant, Brad Klein, Eric Vance, Diane Agud, Matt Chan, Kay Hunnings (for Rich Sorensen), and Joe Merola

Guest: Dr. Sherwood Wilson (Vice President for Administrative Services)

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

1. Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2011
2. Update on Multi-Modal Transport Facility—Dr. Sherwood Wilson, V.P. for Administrative Services
3. Briefings on relevant Commission or Committee Agendas
4. New Business
 - a. Provost seeks nominations by CFA of two full professors to serve on the Alumni Distinguished Professor selection committee (by Feb 3rd)
 - b. Discussion of possible policy changes concerning the role of collegiality in the P&T process
 - c. In upcoming meetings, we will address the issue of possible policy revisions concerning appointment and roles of faculty on Dean review committees

1. Approval of Agenda from 2 December 2011

Sarah Karpanty requested members to read and approve last meetings' CFA minutes electronically by Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

2. Update on Multi-Modal Transport Facility

Dr. Sherwood Wilson briefed members on the status of Multi-Modal Transport Facility project. The Multi-Modal Transport Facility project is currently proposed to be located in the Derring parking lot at the corner of West Campus Drive and Perry Street. Dr. Wilson gave an update of the project from inception to inclusion on the university master plan and the timeline currently in place for completion. Dr. Wilson informed members that a task force is in the process of hiring an environmental consultant to conduct an environmental study on the project. He further informed members that the proper procedures for the project are being followed to make sure stakeholders are involved in each step of the project. The Building Committee is the committee in charge of the project.

CFA members recommended that more consultations with departments and colleges occur when new projects are being developed.

3. Briefings on Relevant Commission or Committee Agendas

- a) Sarah Karpanty informed members that the first reading of the Initial Appointment for Extra-Collegiate Library and Extension Faculty on the Continued-Appointment Track had been done. The second reading is expected at the next university council meeting. Secondly, the issue of conviction checks was briefly reviewed and will be on the next University Council agenda for the second reading. The CFA amendment has been included in the resolution.

- b) Brad Klein informed members that he is a member of Montgomery County Human Resource Commission. The commission is currently discussing reintegration of ex-offenders into the general public. This may be relevant to members as the university discusses conviction checks.
- c) Joe Merola informed members that the University Commencement Committee has approved a new calendar. For this year the spring commencement will be on 11 May, 2012 with graduate commencement being held first ceremony starting at 8:30 AM, followed by undergraduate commencement. The new schedule allows additional departments and colleges to use the Burruss Hall Auditorium.
- d) Jack Finney informed members that CAPFA is currently discussing the grievance policy for AP faculty and plans to revise the policy to be consistent with current practice. The Commission on Research is also revising the Faculty Handbook to drop the word “special” for special research faculty.

New Business

- a) Nomination of two full professors to serve on the Alumni Distinguished Professor Selection Committee

Sarah informed members that the Provost is seeking nominations by CFA of two full professors to serve on the Alumni Distinguished Professor selection committee by Feb 3rd. Members agreed to forward names to the Chair by next week.

- b) Discussion of possible policy changes concerning the role of collegiality in the P&T process

Members discussed what role collegiality plays in the promotion and tenure process. This has been necessitated by letters to the P&T committee that create the impression of faculty as being non-collegial in their respective departments. The issues at hand are (a) what to do with faculty who are usually disruptive and impede the operation of committees and departments, (b) what are the behaviors that are considered non-collegial and what repercussions or remedies can be put in place, and (c) how do we define collegiality and standard of acceptable behavior? Such questions will be on the agenda for CFA discussions during the spring semester.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Recorder, Maxwell Awando