

Commission on Faculty Affairs
Minutes
November 17, 2017
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
330E Burruss Hall

In Attendance: J. Finney (acting Chair), G. Amacher, R. Blieszner, L. Geyer, V. Groover, B. Hicok, M. McGrath, T. Schenk, R. Speer, J. Spotila, P. Young

Absent: L. Brogdon, S-Y Chien, J. Ferris, R. Willis

Guests: T. Bluestein

Upcoming Meetings: Dec. 1 (130 Burruss), Dec. 15 (330E Burruss)

1. Welcome and Approval of Agenda **J. Finney**

Meeting called to order at 10:34 a.m.
The agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of November 3, 2017 Minutes **J. Finney**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Employee Benefits Committee Update **G. Amacher**

G. Amacher gave an update on the Employee Benefits Committee. The committee meets on the final Wednesday of each month. Currently, the primary objective of the committee is evaluating retirement benefits for tenure track faculty. Human Resources is collecting data about tenure track faculty retirement benefits at peer institutions. Additionally, the committee has expressed an interest in childcare options available in the Blacksburg area, and this will be discussed at future meetings, including inviting J. Finney, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs to a meeting to discuss childcare as well as parental leave.

The Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) also discussed the importance of investigating what efforts are being made by VT Government Relations and the Graduate Student Assembly in regards to the proposed tax bill currently being discussed in the US House of Representatives. Commission members expressed concern over the changes the tax bill could have, especially in relation to the taxation of graduate student tuition subsidy. Finally, G. Amacher asked the CFA to bring any issues for the Employee Benefits Committee forward for input.

4. SGA Proposal-Student, Staff, & Faculty Work Group on Diversity and Inclusion **R. Willis**

R. Willis was not present to make this presentation. This item will be discussed at a future CFA meeting.

5. Promotion and Tenure (P&T) Work Group Update

R. Hicok

R. Hicok presented about the P&T Workgroup meeting that occurred from 9-10 on November 17. The Workgroup expressed interest in requesting that an email sent by Interim Provost C. Clarke to college deans also be sent to department heads. This email outlined some of the interim measures for P&T. The commission also discussed the nature of review and changes that the workgroup, in conjunction with the Faculty Senate and the CFA, will bring forward. Discussion centered on the nature and method of these changes and will be discussed further at future meetings. The workgroup will be creating an agenda of issues to consider and invites the commission to contribute to the agenda.

6. Other Business

J. Finney

L. Geyer brought up a concern about the ability of Faculty Senate being able to communicate news from the Senate to both the university at large and faculty members only. Various possibilities were discussed, including adding a report by the President of the Faculty Senate to VT News releases, as well as the possibility of having a listserv for faculty members only. University Relations maintains listservs for highly restricted uses and the Faculty Senate will investigate methods to achieve informing the VT community about Faculty Senate happenings, as well as exploring how to create a method to communicate directly with faculty members.

7. Adjourn

J. Finney

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.