

**Minutes**  
**Commission on Faculty Affairs**  
**September 29, 2023**  
**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Burruss 330E and Zoom**

**Commission Members Present:** J. Lemkul (presiding)  
D. Alcorn (Undergrad Senate), N. Connors (A/P Senate), A. Dayer (Faculty Senate), R. Fricker (ex officio), R. Jin (Faculty Senate), T. Jones (Staff Senate), E. Lavender-Smith (Faculty Senate), L. Learman (Dean), R. Miles (Faculty Senate), L. Liu (Dean) R. Panneton (Faculty Senate), R. Purdue (for James Hawdon, Faculty Senate)

**Absent with Notice:** M. Webb (Grad Rep.), D. Agud (Faculty Senate),

**Guests:** E. Kim (Faculty Affairs), L. Miner (Research and Innovation), A. Myers, (Office of the VP for Governance and Policy), E. Plummer (Faculty Affairs), C. Smith (Office of PostDoc Affairs).

**Quorum:** J. Lemkul called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. A quorum was present (50%+1 of current membership = 8).

**1. Adoption of Agenda.** Members of the commission voted unanimously to adopt the agenda via PollEverywhere.

**2. Approval of September 8, 2023, Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA) Minutes.** A motion was made, seconded, and minutes were approved via PollEverywhere (13 yes, 1 abstain).

**3. Reports from Senates.** No reports: A/P Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Grad/Prof Senate. Undergraduate Student Senate (USS) Report: USS bylaws were reviewed and amended at the last meeting; other topics of conversation included the campus kitchen, student life village (for students who are displaced), race no longer being considered in admissions for higher education (as a result of the SCOTUS ruling), Burruss Hall becoming more ADA accessible, and the change in USS VPs. Faculty Senate Report: At the last meeting, President Sands visited and answered faculty questions, and guests from Strategic Affairs discussed updates to existing plans.

**4. Old Business.** The CFA must appoint one member to the University Benefits Committee. The commitment is every third Thursday of the month on Zoom. Tracy Jones volunteered to take on this role.

**5. New Business.**

**A. Discussion with the Office of Postdoc Affairs.** C. Smith presented information regarding the Office for Postdoctoral Affairs located in the Research and Innovation Division. Smith shared an overview of strategic plans, results from past climate surveys, and general programming (e.g., Fellowship Program, resources for support). L. Miner provided an overview of governance, bylaws, and constitutional goals for Postdoc's to be recognized by the university.

**B. Discussion of draft changes to Faculty Handbook and Faculty Senate Constitution.** J. Lemkul led a discussion regarding the possibility of amending the Faculty Senate Constitution to clarify the eligibility for serving on the Faculty Senate. Additionally, the Faculty Senate is considering clarifying the role(s) of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees (reconciliation, ethics, and review). Commission members asked C. Smith and L. Miner to talk with postdocs about representation in university shared governance.

**6. Open Discussion.** J. Lemkul encouraged CFA members to think about their satisfaction with university shared governance for possible discussion at the next CFA meeting. This information is being gathered by the University Council as a source of feedback.

**7. Adjournment.** There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 12:00 pm.

**Next meeting: October 13, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**