

Minutes
Commission on Faculty Affairs
March 22, 2024
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Burruss 330E and Zoom

Commission Members Present: J. Lemkul (presiding), D. Agud (Faculty Senate), D. Alcorn (Undergrad Student Senate), C. Bartel (Staff Senate), R. Fricker (ex officio Provost's Office), R. Gaines (Faculty Senate), J. Hawdon (Faculty Senate), R. Jin (Faculty Senate), L-A. Krometis (Faculty Senate), E. Lavender-Smith (Faculty Senate), L. Liu (Dean), R. Miles (Faculty Senate), R. Panneton (Faculty Senate), M. Webb (Grad/Prof Student Senate).

Absent with Notice: N. Connors (A/P Senate), L. Learman (Dean).

Absent: N/A.

Guests: E. Kim (Faculty Affairs/Provost's Office), J. Kuypers, professor, School of Communication, D. Harris (Policy and Governance), A. Myers (Policy and Governance), E. Plummer (Faculty Affairs/Provost's Office).

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

1. Welcome and Introductions.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda. Members of the commission voted unanimously to adopt the agenda via PollEverywhere.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2024. A motion was made, seconded, and minutes were approved with a revision to the list of attendees via PollEverywhere.

4. Reports from Senates.

- A/P Faculty Senate: Absent with notice.
- Staff Senate: At the next meeting, there will be a second reading of task force resolution and a discussion on the climate survey.
- Grad/Prof Senate: Elections were recently held, and there will be a second reading on the resolution about caste discrimination at the next meeting.
- Undergraduate Senate Report: At the next meeting, the senate will be voting on a statement regarding Palestine.
- Faculty Senate: At the next meeting, the steering committee for global distinction will lead a discussion.

5. Old Business.

- a. **Second Reading: CFA 2023-2024D Resolution To Amend Article IV And Clarify Other Sections Of The Faculty Senate Constitution.** J. Lemkul reminded CFA members of the edits and suggested changes to Article IV, which included administrative edits for consistency with the University Constitution. A motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to approve CFA 2023-2024D.
 - b. **Second Reading: CFA 2023-2024E Resolution To Endorse The Statement On The Responsible Use Of Research Metrics At The University Level.** R. Miles reviewed comments she received outside of the CFA. The commission addressed these comments by amending the existing “be it further resolved” statement to address that nothing in this statement should supersede university policy. A motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to amend CFA 2023-2024E.
- 6. New Business**
- a. **First Reading: CFA 2023-2024F Resolution To Revise Faculty Handbook Language On Nominations To University Distinguished Professor And Alumni Distinguished Professor.** J. Lemkul provided an overview of the resolution, which will essentially amend the nomination process to allow the President or Provost to nominate faculty members for ADP and UDP distinction in consultation with the Dean.
 - b. **First Reading: CFA 2023-2024G Resolution To Update The Faculty Handbook Description Of Expectations For Promotion And Tenure.** J. Lemkul reviewed minor edits to Section 3.4.4 of the Faculty Handbook. The resolution provides clarity for evaluating contributions of clinical faculty, specifically within CVM and VTCSOM.
- 7. Open Discussion**
- a. E. Plummer introduced a potential new avenue of editing/vetting the Faculty Handbook that will be discussed in further detail at the next CFA meeting. Currently, the Faculty Handbook is approved once a year in August by the BOV, but this timeline has been limiting. Instead, it is being proposed (pending permission from legal counsel) that edits to the Faculty Handbook be adopted as changes go through governance as opposed to once annually. E. Plummer will invite the CFA to provide feedback at later meetings.
- 8. Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and members of the commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 11:33 am.**