

Commission on Faculty Affairs

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE FACULTY HANDBOOK TO CODIFY INTEREST- OR DISCIPLINE-BASED FACULTY ORGANIZATIONS

CFA 2024-25K

Draft Notice Sent to University Council Cabinet	January 13, 2025
First Reading by Commission	February 28, 2025
Approval by Commission	March 28, 2025
First Reading by Faculty Senate	March 7, 2025
Approval by Faculty Senate	April 4, 2025
Staff Senate Comment	March 7, 2025
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	March 17, 2025
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	February 27, 2025
Undergraduate Student Senate Comment	None Received
First Reading, University Council	April 21, 2025
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Approved, Board of Visitors	Date
Effective Date	Upon Approval or Date

WHEREAS, the Faculty Handbook describes the policies related to faculty and the organizations within Virginia Tech to which they belong; and

WHEREAS, faculty with common disciplinary or professional interests may wish to organize for the purposes of networking and professional development; and

WHEREAS, formal recognition of such organizations by Virginia Tech is beneficial to the faculty and in alignment with mutual interests of advancing professional interests and fostering collegiality and collaboration among faculty;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Chapter 1 of the Faculty Handbook be amended with the changes noted below in red.

1.1.12 Faculty Organizations

Faculty organizations may be established by faculty for the purposes of building communities of practice and networking for professional development. These organizations may be comprised of faculty around certain disciplinary interests, experiences, or towards specific goals. These faculty organizations have constitutions that designate their purposes, membership, officers, election procedures, standing committees and their duties, and other organizational and procedural matters. These faculty organizations do not have a formal role in university governance but are recognized by and supported in their activities, as appropriate, by the office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.



Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

<https://governance.vt.edu/ap-faculty-senate.php>

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March 17, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

From: A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorsees the Commission on Faculty Affairs Resolution 2024-25K to Amend the Faculty Handbook to Codify Interest- Or Discipline-Based Faculty Associations.

We have no further comment.



Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)

25 Graduate Life Center (0186)

155 Otey Street

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Email: gpss@vt.edu

Website: gpss.vt.edu

Comment on CFA 2024-25K:

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate waives its right to comment on CFA 2024-25K: Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook to Codify Interest- or Discipline-Based Faculty Associations.

On behalf of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate,
Ronnie Mondal
President

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Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

March 7, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CFA Resolution 2024-25K. However, we have two clarification questions.

First, if the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs is going to recognize and support the activities of other faculty associations, should there not be some form of approval process, or at least a notification of formation, so that the office is made aware of what associations exist? (Perhaps the association has to submit their constitution and other documents that detail the purpose and operation of the association to be filed with the Faculty Affairs Office.) Otherwise, it would be possible to find ourselves in a situation where there is a faculty association that, according to this addition in the Faculty Handbook, the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs both recognizes and supports, but the office was not aware that the faculty association existed, and in fact, would not support them due to conflict with the values and principles of the university.

Second, would these associations receive regular and on-going financial support from the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs? If financial support was requested, is there a process in place to manage and track these requests and approval or disapproval?

We have no further comment.

**Thank you,
Amber Robinson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and
Issues Committee**