

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday March 28, 2017

PRESENT: Abbas, Agud, Allnutt, Baker (Mike Ruoniemi alternate), Balci, Billingsley, Brewster, Dalloul, Etzkorn, Gaskill, Gilmore, Hawdon, Hicok, Kaufman (alternate), Lyon, Mackey, McGrath, Noirot, Richey, Rinehart, Robinson, Schenk, Shadle, Smith, Spotila, Sultan, Tegarden, Trogdon, Vogelaar, Watson, Wemhoener, Young.

ABSENT: Ahmadian, Al-Haik, Amacher, Anderson, Ashley, Bairaktarova, Barney, Brown, Bush, Campbell, Corl, Ducker, Ferris, Gabbard, Geyer, Gindlesberger, Good, Guynn, Hopkins, Hosig, Jordan, Leon (with notice)Luttrell, Martin, Matheson, Merola, Nappier, O’Keefe, Olson, O’Rourke, Patterson, Puckett, Reed, Rosenzweig, Safaai-Jazi, Savla, Seth, Sirgy, Skaggs, Stauffer, Stivachtis, Tavera, Tracy, Viehland, Zhang.

I. HOUSEKEEPING

The meeting was called to order at 5:19PM.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes for the March 14, 2017 meeting were approved.

II. FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEES AND TIMELINES

Some cases reviewed by the three following Senate committees took longer than the Cabinet deemed desirable. Updating their guidelines and procedures might therefore be necessary. Vacancies should be filled as well.

A. **Faculty Review Committee**

President Abbas issued a call for nominees and invited those who served in recent years to describe the charge and activities of the FRC. Not all FRC representatives have to be senators. Putting a call through the College Faculty Associations might help, even though not all Schools and Colleges have one. An email will be sent to all senators in those Colleges lacking representation.

A. **Committee on Reconciliation**

The creation of the Ombuds Office might render that committee obsolete.

B. **Committee on Faculty Ethics**

The guidelines and procedures for that committee are outdated (1996). They do not fit the speed of today’s means of communication, or the new expedited timelines affecting shared governance.

President Abbas is proposing a more efficient timeline, without changing the essential steps of the procedure. Vice-President Robinson explained that Diane Zham reported that most cases do go much faster than the current procedure suggests. We should consult with the current members or the Chair of Faculty Ethics. Since it can be hard to schedule meetings with busy faculty members, regularly-scheduled meetings were also suggested.

III. RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW

A. **Faculty Senate Resolution on Free Inquiry**

The statement, drafted by Schenk and edited by a few Cabinet members, was shared on the Scholar/Canvas site. Schenk summed up its spirit while the wording was projected onto the screen. Much debating ensued. The intention is to warn against the danger of valuing various fields of research based on the money they generate or may generate (overhead, patents, industry partnerships, etc.). This is a local and national trend we stand against. The resolution was edited on the floor to improve wording and include teaching. Schenk will work on a final version and share it on our Canvas site.

B. CGS&P “Resolution to approve the degree title change from Master of Science in Human Development to Master of Dcience in Human Development and Family Science”

The right to comment was waived by the Senate without discussion.

IV. COMMISSION AND TASKFORCE UPDATES

CFA added language to the Handbook updates on restricted-faculty promotion. The Commission is waiting to hear from legal before the first reading on that resolution.

V. OTHER ITEMS

Secretary Noirot announced that the Canvas migration is complete and asked that all senators join the “Course” created.

President Abbas raised an overhead issues related to DCR (“Direct Cost Recovery”) on summer salaries charged to external funding.

President Abbas shared proposed topics for his upcoming Constituents Report. Much discussion ensued about compensation and compression. It is noteworthy that some undergraduates make more than their professors in entry-level jobs. Retention is an issue at VT, and largely connected to lack of competitiveness on faculty salaries and merit raises.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.