

Minutes--Faculty Affairs Committee Meeting
November 22, 2022 (2-3 on zoom)

Members attending: Maria Donoghue Velleca (Dean), Elizabeth Barnes, Peter McHenry (chair), Marc Sher(scribe), Cathy Levesque, Ayfer Stump. Vice Dean Suzanne Raitt

Approval of the 15 November minutes

1) Dean Updates

- a) Maria, Suzanne and Silvia met with the PRC and discussed the merit procedures. PRC would like to see the merit plans of departments. Merit standards of some departments still need work.
- b) There are 10 tenure cases that will be forwarded to the Provost by Dec. 2.
- c) The ToRFF was reviewed by the University Counsel. She suggested two moderately substantial revisions (and some less substantial changes). The first is to replace the three categories (Teaching, Research, Teaching Research) with just the first two (Teaching and Research). The rationale is that if a Teaching Professor gets a grant to do research, they can buy out their teaching – changing formal titles would be awkward. The second change is to make the ToR Committee ad hoc for a couple of years to make its function more well-defined, and thus no immediate by-laws changes are needed. FAC agreed with these revisions and will appoint the ad hoc committee for next semester and the faculty will elect the members for subsequent years.

2) Preparation for the Dec. 6th FAS meeting was discussed. Derek Aday (Dean of VIMS) will be proposing a marine sciences major and wishes to keep the faculty in the loop as the details are worked out. [Later in the week, this plan was changed: Dean Aday will describe the Water Initiative of Vision 2026 at the December FAS meeting, and then describe the marine science major idea at the February FAS meeting.] In addition, there is a suggestion that the GRE be optional for departments – it has been during the pandemic but there is a desire to make this permanent.

3) BOV and Faculty Productivity Study

It is not clear whether FAC (or FAS) will have a role in this. We will learn more later.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.