

Approved, 9/30/08
MINUTES
Faculty Senate
September 9, 2008

Members present: D. Agud, M. Akers, S. Anong, M. Bell, V. Centeno, R. Cothren, L. Dahlgren J. Duke, K. Eriksson, J. Floyd, L. Freeman, D. Gracanin, R. Grange, B. Grisso, L. Grossman, J. Jelesko, J. Jones, B. Klein, T. Larson, G. Long, J. Mann, S. Martin, T. Martin, M. Maycock, M. Moseley-Christian, L. Moyo, J. Nachlas, D. Nelson, H. Odendaal, W. Ott, M. Paretti, B. Pencek, D. Pfeiffer, M. Ponder, K. Redican, K. Rojiani for S. Easterling, D. Russell, E. Satterwhite, B. Shadle, R. Shingles, D. Shoemaker, D. Smith, E. Vance, L. Wasserman, and C. Wood

Guest: D. Shelton, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Recorder: S. Karlin (skarlin@vt.edu), Provost's Office

Faculty Senate president Hardus Odendaal called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda (H. Odendaal)

- **ACTION:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as written. The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of March 8, 2008 Minutes (H. Odendaal)

- **ACTION:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 8, 2008 minutes as written. The minutes were approved.

3. Welcome New Senators (H. Odendaal)

- Odendaal welcomed new senators. Prior to the meeting, Odendaal provided new senators with an overview of Faculty Senate activities.
- "The purpose of the Faculty Senate is to create an effective Faculty organization, which can enter into partnership for shared responsibility and cooperative action between the Faculty, Administration, Staff, and Students in order to promote the general welfare of the University." (Faculty Senate Constitution, available at www.facultysenate.vt.edu/Constitution.html .)

4. Officer Election Results (K. Redican)

- Gary Long was elected Vice President of the Faculty Senate. By virtue of his position, Dr. Long will also serve as chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs.

5. Presentation by Dwight Shelton, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

- In August, Gov. Kaine announced that state general fund revenues will be less than previously expected, which means budget cuts are necessary. Actual revenue figures won't be known until the end of September, but the governor has asked state agencies to prepare plans now that anticipate 5%, 10%, and 15% reductions to their biennial budgets. These plans are due to the governor on September 26.
- Virginia Tech's central administrators have only three weeks to prepare these budget scenarios and are taking a macro-level approach. Central administrators are not asking the colleges and

departments to prepare specific plans now; however, your suggestions and comments are welcome (mdsjr@vt.edu).

- It is anticipated that by mid-October, Gov. Kaine will issue his call for a reduction, presumably 5%, 10% or 15%, based on the requested planning scenarios. At that time, central administrators will communicate with the university community and seek their participation in meeting the budget reductions.
- Administrators are looking at all options, including the possibility of another increase to in-state tuition. (The Board of Visitors recently approved an 11% increase to in-state tuition.) While out-of-state tuition covers 119% of the cost of an education, in-state tuition covers only 46% of the cost.
- Administrators are *not* considering faculty "buy-out" packages.
- Agency 229 (Research non-sponsored funds and Extension) receives approximately 81.9% of its funding from the state general funds. A significant cut in these 229-funds will create a severe situation for those programs.
- Odendaal thanked Shelton and invited him to meet again with the Faculty Senate later in the semester.

6. Appointment of Cabinet (H. Odendaal and K. Redican)

- **ACTION:** The following senators agreed to serve on the Faculty Senate Cabinet
 - Robert Grange, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
 - Madeline Screibner, College of Science
 - Larry Freeman, College of Veterinary Medicine
 - Bruce Pencek, University Libraries
- The following Senate Cabinet posts remain open:
 - College of Architecture and Urban Studies
 - Pamplin College of Business
 - College of Engineering
 - College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
 - College of Natural Resources
- Senators present from the above-mentioned colleges will confer with colleagues in their colleges to select a senator for the Faculty Senate Cabinet. They will notify K. Redican of the outcome.

7. Open Positions on Commissions and Committees (K. Redican)

- **ACTION:** These senators agreed to serve on the following committees/commissions:
 - Monica Ponder and Don Shoemaker serving on Employee Benefits Committee
 - Deborah Smith serving on Commission on Faculty Affairs
 - Lewis Wasserman serving on University Council
- These faculty representative positions remain open:
 - Commission on Faculty Affairs (1 opening)
 - Commission on University Support (3 openings)
 - Commission on Administrative and Professional Faculty Affairs (to complete the unexpired term of Ken Eriksson)

8. Closed Session

- **ACTION:** A motion was made and seconded to move into closed session. The motion passed.
- At 8:32 p.m. the public portion of the Faculty Senate meeting concluded.

9. President's Report (H. Odendaal)

10. Commission and Committee Reports

11. New Business

12. Adjournment

13. The next meeting of the Faculty Senate will be held on **October 14, 2008, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in 32 Pamplin Hall.**