

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda

October 15, 2021, @ 2:30pm

Via Zoom or Pamplin 30

Check-In

Senators Present:

Monty Abbas, Luke Achenie (representing William Ducker), Diane Agud, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Joseph Baker, Arthur Ball, Azziza Bankole, Andrew Binks, Hilary Bryon, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Tanyel Bulbul, Scott Case, Guopeng (Kevin) Cheng, Benjamin Corl, George Davis, Ashley Dayer, Stuart Feigenbaum, John Ferris, Carla Finkielstein, Becky Funk, Joe Guthrie, James Hawdon, David Hicks, Bob Hicok, Daniel Hindman, Ran Jin, Brett Jones, Eric Kaufman, Young Kim, Nate King, Alex Kinnaman (representing Rachel Miles), Bradley Klein, Vivica Kraak, Leigh-Anne Krometis, Evan Lavender-Smith, Justin Lemkul, Alexander Leonessa, Jon Maher, Jason Malone, Caitlin Martinkus, Frances McCarty, Deborah Milly, Michael Nappier, Amy Nelson, Aaron Noble, Greg Novack, Thomas O'Donnell, Sarah Parker, Bruce Pencek, Christopher Pierce, Thomas Pingel, Patrick Pithua, Nicole Pitterson, Robin Queen, Susanna Rinehart, Hans Robinson, Todd Schenk, Charles J. Schleupner, Peter Schmitthenner, Ashley Shew, Ryan Stewart, Cornel Sultan, Jay M Teets, Jim Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, Kwok Tsui, AK Ward, Layne Watson, Robert Weiss, Cindy Wood, Hehuang Xie, Liqing Zhang (73)

Guests:

Joseph Guthrie, April Myers, Ellen Plummer (3)

(70 attended via Zoom, and 6 in person)

Call to Order by Senate President Robert Weiss at 2:34pm

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Robert Weiss)

- Approval of the Faculty Senate Agenda for October 15, 2021.
- Approval and posting of the Faculty Senate meeting minutes for September 17, 2021 ([Link](#))

The consent agenda was presented and a motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Robert Weiss and was seconded by James Hawdon. These items were passed by unanimous consent.

2. Voting for FS Representatives in the Governance

- University Council (Carla Finkielstein)
- Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity (Crystal Lane)

The two candidates were presented for election by unanimous consent. A motion was made and seconded and passed by unanimous consent.

3. Short Topics

- Curriculum Approval Process (Bob Hicok)

Bob Hicok asked for additional feedback on this topic. No additional feedback was provided by the Faculty Senate during the meeting.

- OSP Faculty Workgroup (Monty Abbas)

Monty Abbas summarized the feedback on the OSP Contract process. The general perception of faculty indicates an improvement in the process following SUMMIT implementation. Remaining concerns exist regarding contract negotiations. Faculty requested to review the annual OSP report and requested the ability to share this information with their units. Faculty indicated a need for OSP to resolve understaffing and miscommunication issues and requested that metrics be established for long-term improvements in OSP.

Metrics should be established within OSP for performance monitoring of all contracts at the university. There was a request for a comprehensive review of OSP contracting and then the suggestion to track performance going forward

The Faculty Senate officers, and Monty Abbas will prepare a written response to this work and meet Dr. Dan Sui (VP for Research) or OSP directors for continued discussion.

4. Brief Announcements and Updates (Robert Weiss)

- SharePoint Website Launch
- All documents that need to be reviewed by senators will be put on the website. Announcement will be used for important information.
- Forms to Question Solicitation

In the Faculty Senate Feedback page, faculty can provide feedback and questions. Based on feedback the form will be revised. Any sensitive information should be sent to the Faculty Senate President by email.

5. Open-Floor Discussion

The Experiential Learning subcommittee is looking for one volunteer from each of the following college: CAUS, CNRE, and Vet Med. This is mainly for undergraduate research activities. More information will be sent through a SharePoint announcement.

Salary compression – This is of concern to many faculty and will be discussed with university leadership and the Board of Visitors. This is an issue of equity as well as retention and will be discussed further by Faculty Senate Leadership.

COVID and mask mandate – Concerns were raised regarding a Virginia Tech news article regarding potential changes to mask mandates. A request was made by the Faculty Senate President to have faculty members send concerns and opinions about this topic to him by email so that he can communicate with the administration.

Other discussion topics:

- 1) Consequence of employees failing to comply with the vaccination requirement.
- 2) Safety issues with construction on campus and the impact to faculty, students, and traffic flow.

6. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:16PM.