

# Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

## February 11, 2022, @ 2:30pm

Pamplin 1045 or Via Zoom

### Check-In

**Senators Present:** Montasir Abbas, Masoud Agah, Onwubiko Agozino, Diane Agud, Abiola Akanmu, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Paul Avey, Joseph Baker, Azziza Bankole, A.K. Bartlett, Andrew Binks, Hilary Bryon, Scott Case, Guopeng Cheng, Benjamin Corl, George Davis, Ashley Dayer, Robert Dunay, Stuart Feigenbaum, Becky Funk, James Hawdon, David Hicks, Bob Hicok, Daniel Hindman, Ran Jin, Mary Kasarda (alternate representing John Ferris), Brett Jones, Eric Kaufman, Nathan King, Bradley Klein, Vivica Kraak, Leigh Krometis, Evan Lavender-Smith, Justin Lemkul, Jonathan Maher, Jason Malone, Caitlin Martinkus, Frances McCarty, Rachel Miles, Michael Nappier, Amy Nelson, Gregory Novack, Thomas O'Donnell, Robin Panneton, Sarah Parker, Bruce Pencek, Christopher Pierce, Thomas Pingel, Nicole Pitterson, Robin Queen, Steven Rideout, Susanna Rinehart, Nicholas Robbins, Thomas Sanchez, Charles Schleupner, Richard Shryock, Ryan Stewart, Laura Strawn, Jay Teets, James Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, Kwok Tsui, Layne Watson, Robert Weiss, Liqing Zhang (66)

**Guests:** April Myers, Ellen Plummer (2)  
(64 attended via Zoom, 4 attended in person)

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

#### Resolutions with Faculty Senate

**UC 2021-22A:** Resolution to Revise the System of Shared Governance at Virginia Tech and approve the New University Council Constitution and Bylaws University Council  
1st Reading in Faculty Senate: 1/28/22; 2nd Reading/Vote in Faculty Senate: 2/11/2022.

**CUSP 2021-22F:** Resolution to Modify the Pathways to General Education Concept 5 – Quantitative and Computational Thinking Requirements  
1st Review in Faculty Senate: 2/11/22; 2nd Review in Faculty Senate: N/A  
**Preliminary Recommendation:** Waive the right to comment

**CGPSP 2021-22F:** Resolution to Require Department Justification to Use the GRE in Graduate Admission Application Review  
1st Review in Faculty Senate: 2/11/22; 2nd Review in Faculty Senate: 2/25/22  
**Preliminary Recommendation:** Provide comment

**CFA 2021-22B:** Resolution to Revise the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws  
1st Reading in Faculty Senate: 2/11/22; 2nd Reading/Vote in Faculty Senate: 2/25/2022.

## 1. Consent Agenda (Robert Weiss)

- Consent agenda including the following items was adopted:
  - Minutes for 1/28/2022 (Link).
  - Agenda for February 11, 2022
  - CUSP 2021-22F: Resolution to Modify the Pathways to General Education Concept 5 – Quantitative and Computational Thinking Requirement; Faculty Senate waives the right to comment

## Business Agenda

### Old Business

### 2. Updates

- Updates from University Council, Commissions and Committees available for senators to review, no topics required discussion.
- **UC 2021-22A:** Resolution to Revise the System of Shared Governance at Virginia Tech and approve the New University Council Constitution and Bylaws University Council 2nd Reading/Vote in Faculty Senate: 2/11/2022.  
Resolution Passed - Yes: 55/No: 0/Abstain: 1

### New Business

### 3. CGPSP 2021-22F: Resolution to Require Department Justification to Use the GRE in Graduate Admission Application Review

- Discussion points from the senate
  - There was acknowledgement that the use of the GRE has limitations and when used in isolation can be problematic
  - GRE can provide important insights for certain programs when used as part of a holistic review for admissions
  - There were concerns for the accuracy of the information contained in the appendix
  - The decision on the use of the GRE for graduate admissions should remain at the level of a program or department to make
  - The economic burden of the GRE was acknowledged, especially for international students.
  - Senators raised concerns regarding whether the resolution was focused on the general GRE or subject tests of the GRE.
  - GRE scores may be a poor indicator of success for many students and their graduate studies. However, it is only one of several metrics used to evaluate students. The faculty do not think that GRE scores are better or worse indicators of student success in graduate studies.
  - It was felt that through this resolution, it would be inappropriate to remove a tool to screen applicants with a long track record; especially it is useful for international applicants because it is difficult to compare qualifications across institutions.
  - It is not clear if passing the resolution will result in lower or higher numbers of international students applying to Virginia Tech.

- Faculty voiced their desire to have all information available to evaluate prospective graduate students.
- Senators indicated a concern about losing academic freedom by passing this kind of resolution.
- Departments should have the right of self-determination regarding the use of the GRE. The discussion from the Faculty Senate will be used to draft the comment on the resolution and this comment will be shared with the Faculty Senate for review before it is finalized.

#### **4. CFA 2021-22B: Resolution to Revise the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws**

The resolution was introduced for first reading. A brief overview of the proposed changes was provided. First reading in the CFA will occur on 2/18/2022.

- An update to the document will be made to account for changes to the Faculty Senate of Virginia constitution.
- A discussion about a potential change to the membership of the Faculty Senate Cabinet resulted in proposed changes to allow for the option for a college to elect a cabinet member that is not one of the officers (President, Vice President, Operations Officer) to decrease the burden on the officers and allow for better college level representation in the Cabinet.
- The Faculty Senate President can currently invite guests to cabinet meetings, and it might be good to keep the Cabinet relatively small for more effective discussions.
- There was a suggestion to move the elections to the last meeting of the Fall Semester to align with university level budget requests as well as allowing for a smoother transition between the officer roles.

#### **Open-Floor Discussion**

- The following announcement was provided and asked to be shared and posted on the Faculty Senate Website:

The Virginia Tech Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) invites you to share your current concerns, challenges, and ideas for positive changes. You'll have an opportunity to meet folks that are not in your discipline and discover perspectives that you may not have considered. The VT-AAUP has a sincere desire to understand your current concerns on a range of issues (pandemic impacts, academic freedom, university governance) and to build a sense of community among the scholars, researchers, creative artists, and educators at Virginia Tech. When: Wednesday, February 16 from 12:30-1:30pm at <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/88515650669>

- Concerns were shared regarding the restructuring on the College of Architecture and Urban Studies. These concerns included the process used for hiring and decision making.
- House Bill 1226 requiring tenured or tenure-track faculty to teach 12 credit hours in each semester in person was raised and discussed. Note: This bill has changed with new text and purpose ([LINK](#) to new text).

- Discussion on the increasing number of no-shows in classes and how to handle this with regards to the requirements for providing content to these students.
- An update was requested regarding the gender-based violence work group. These updates will be provided with the commission and committee updates in future meetings.

### **5. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21PM.