



Faculty Senate

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

<https://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/>

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2022, @ 2:30pm

Pamplin 1045 or Via Zoom

Check-In:

Present: Robert Weiss (presiding), Montasir Abbas, Diane Agud, Susan Anderson, Joseph Baker, Arthur Ball, Andrew Binks, Hilary Bryon, Scott Case, Guopeng Cheng, George Davis, William Ducker, Becky Funk, Becky Funk, Howard Gartner, Wesley Gwaltney, James Hawdon, Rebecca Hester, David Hicks, Daniel Hindman, Scott Huxtable, Ran Jin, Brett Jones, Eric Kaufman, Holly Kindsvater, Nathan King, Vivica Kraak, Leigh Anne Krometis, Evan Lavender-Smith, Justin Lemkul, Alexander Leonessa, Jonathan Maher, Jason Malone, Luca Massa, Frances McCarty, Joe Merola, Rachel Miles, Aaron Noble, Thomas O'Donnell, Bruce Pencek, Christopher Pierce, Thomas Pingel, Nicole Pitterson, Robin Queen, Susanna Rinehart, Nicholas Robbins, Adrian Sandu, Charles Schlepner, Peter Schmitthenner, Richard Shryock, Laura Strawn, Jay Teets, Jim Tokuhisa, Kwok Tsui, Anna Ward Bartlett, Layne Watson, Diane Zahm (56)

Absent with Notice: Nick Copeland, Bettina Koch, Kelly Pender

Absent: Luke Achenie, Masoud Agah, Biko Agozino, Rick Ashley, Jonathan Auguste, Paul Avey, Azziza Bankole, Kevin Boyle, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Tanyel Bulbul, Joshua Clemons, Kristy Daniels, Stuart Feigenbaum, Carla Finkielstein, April Fu, David Gregory, Al Hagy, Joseph Hughes, Casey Jim, Young-Teck Kim, Brad Klein, G.Q. Lu, Eric Martin, Caitlin Martinkus, John McDowell, Thomas Mills, Gonzalo Montero Yavar, Gregory Novack, Robin Panneton, Patrick Pithua, Steve Rideout, Hans Robinson, Stephanie Smith, Ryan Stewart, Eric Stanley, Diego Troya, Kwok Tsui, Shane Wang, Rose Wesche, Ashley Wilkinson, Angelica Witcher, Randy Wynne, David Xie, Yan Xu

Guests: Ron Fricker, Kay Heidbreder, BJ Norris, Alice Fox

Call to Order by the Senate Vice President Robin Queen at 2:37pm

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Robert Weiss)

- Consent agenda was adopted:
 - Minutes for September 2, 2022 ([Link](#))

- Agenda for September 16, 2022

Business Agenda

Old Business

2. Updates

- Brief announcements from the Faculty Senate President related to the recent Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request:
 - Please let the Faculty Senate Officers know if you intend to record the meeting. This will help with transparency to inform leadership so this can be shared with all those attending senate at the start of the meeting.
 - Please know that comments and opinions shared during Faculty Senate meetings are subject to FOIA, and thus, while everyone on Faculty Senate as well as guests should feel comfortable expressing themselves, they should be aware of the public nature of the meetings.

Motion was made and seconded to move into closed session. The meeting moved to closed session via unanimous consent at 3:01 pm.

Closed Session Discussion: Faculty Senate records generation and retention policies

Faculty Senate moved out of closed session at 3:52 pm.

New Business

3. Presentation from Dr. Jennifer Irish, the President 's appointed faculty athletics representative (FAR), on student athlete well-being and academic success
 - There are new academic incentive awards, but they are not changing the bar on student academic expectations.
 - Student athlete academic success & barriers to success
 - Virginia Tech is a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference; the student athletes have stellar success both in their academics and athletics. However, the privilege of being an ACC member also means commitment to television/network scheduling which can impede academic schedules.
 - Trying to ensure student athletes have Internet access to complete their academic work when traveling by bus or other transportation to their games.
 - Working with them individually to make up their academic work when they miss classes or exams due to games.
 - Student athlete well-being
 - Experiencing what all students are experiencing; they have access to Cook Counseling just like all students.
 - Very few student athletes are seeking counseling for sports-related reasons

- Overall stigma against mental health in athletics, but student athletes are doing a good job of making good use of the resources and communicating their availability
- Cook Counseling personnel are overtaxed and understaffed
- There is a lack of diversity in the staff, this needs to be improved to help diverse student athletes feel more comfortable
- Must disclose their Name, Image Likeness (NIL) opportunities; HokieWay helps to facilitate NIL opportunities; it also allows them to pay the student athletes.
- After the presentation, there were some questions and discussion regarding:
 - Differential for Graduate students as student athletes and setting expectations.
 - Students need to be allowed to make up work for university sanctioned travel.
 - Discussion on tutoring for student athletes
 - Tutors for higher level courses would be helpful
 - Question on how tutors are paid (Athletics or Academics) High standards for tutoring of student athletes and a rigorous screening process.

Open Floor Discussion

1. Be on the lookout for an announcement on commission and committee vacancies
2. AAUP Virginia Tech chapter crafted a letter to Provost Cyril Clarke about the recent short notice regarding the closing of university and canceling of classes (related to the upcoming university closing for a football game on September 22). The letter stated that there are many issues around such short notice, and there needs to be an improvement in such communication policy and planning.
3. Reminder the attendance requirements in the Faculty Senate bylaws. The number of absences allowed before a senator is automatically dismissed is three in a semester or four in an academic year; absences can be excused or unexcused, but it is not an absence if an elected alternate senator or their alternate is present. Another reminder to senators to do their best to be on time to the meeting so they can get started on time and end on time.
4. Department can elect a new senator if one is automatically “dropped” due to too many absences (without alternates).

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 4:19 p.m.