



Faculty Senate
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
<https://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/>

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes September 30, 2022, @ 2:30pm Pamplin 1045 or Via Zoom

Check-In:

Present: Robert Weiss (presiding), Montasir Abbas, Masoud Agah, Diane Agud, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Joseph Baker, Arthur Ball, Azziza Bankole, Andrew Binks, Hilary Bryon, Scott Case, Joshua Clemons, Nick Copeland, George Davis, William Ducker, Stuart Feigenbaum, Zhuo Fu, Becky Funk, Howard (Scott) Gartner, David Gregory, James Hawdon, Rebecca Hester, David Hicks, Daniel Hindman, Morgan Holder (alternate for Wes Gwaltney), Scott Huxtable, Ran Jin, Brett Jones, Young Kim, Nathan King, Bradley Klein, Bettina Koch (alternate for Paul Avey), Vivica Kraak, Leigh Anne Krometis, Evan Lavender-Smith, Justin Lemkul, Alexander Leonessa, Guo-Quan Lu, Jonathan Maher, Jason Malone, Eric Martin, Luca Massa, Frances McCarty, Joe Merola, Rachel Miles, Gonzalo Montero Yavar, Aaron Noble, Gregory Novack, Thomas O'Donnell, Robin Panneton, Bruce Pencek, Kelly Pender, Patrick Pithua, Nicole Pitterson, Robin Queen, Steven Rideout, Nicholas Robbins, Adrian Sandu, Charles Schlepner, Peter Schmitthenner, Richard Shryock, , Laura Strawn, Jay Teets, James Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, Kwok Tsui, Anna Ward Bartlett, Layne Watson, Rose Wesche, Ashley Wilkinson, Angelica Witcher, Randolph Wynne, Yan Xu, Diane Zahm (74)

Absent with Notice: Eric Kaufman, Susanna Rinehart, Kevin Cheng

Absent: Biko Agozino, Jonathan Auguste, Kevin Boyle, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Tanyel Bulbul, Kristy Daniels, Carla Finkielstein, Al Hagy, Joseph Hughes, Casey Jim, Caitlin Martinkus, Thomas Mills, Chris Pierce, Thomas Pingel, Hans Robinson, Tom Sanchez, Stephanie Smith, Eric Stanley, David Xie

Guests: Ron Fricker, Chloe Robertson, Ryan Stewart

Call to Order by the Senate President Robert Weiss at 2:36pm

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Robert Weiss)

- Consent agenda was adopted:
 - Minutes for September 16, 2022 ([Link](#))

- Agenda for September 30, 2022
- CUSP 2022-23A: Resolution to Modify the General Education Requirements for Students Seeking a Second Bachelor's Degree Requirement from Waiving Pathways Requirements
 - Faculty Senate agreed that this resolution is appropriate for CUSP; at the next FS meeting, the CUSP Chair will present the resolution for first reading.

Business Agenda

Old Business

2. Updates & Announcements

- Future Discussions in the Senate:
 - Commission on Faculty Affairs on emeritus/a status and how to define it
 - Freedom of Expression and Inquiry Task Force's progress on a draft statement of statement.

New Business

3. Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) Presentation (Ed Lener & Bryan Garey presenting)
 - See attached slides at the end of the minutes.
4. Questions regarding where to find CVC donation website, the types of charities, and how to find the list of charities. Virginia Tech representatives to the Faculty Senate of Virginia
 - The Senate voted to elect three representatives:
 - Susan Anderson, Mathematics (61)
 - Onwubiko (Biko) Agozino, Sociology (63)
 - Lauren Strawn, Food Science and Technology (61)
5. Five vacancies for commissions and committees:
 - Will vote on the representatives for these committees and commissions at the next Faculty Senate meeting (October 14); only calling for volunteers now. The President will also send out an email to all senators about a call for volunteers to those committees and commissions in which there are no volunteers today.
 - Volunteers during the meeting:
 - Joe Merola volunteered for the Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA)
 - Randy Wynne volunteered for the Budget and Planning Committee
 - Rick Ashley volunteered for the Parking and Transportation (temporary, only for fall 2022)
 - Volunteers still needed for:
 - Campus Development Committee (two vacancies)
 - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies (CUSP)

Open Floor Discussion

6. Questions and discussion about the forthcoming emeritus/a status from the Commission on Faculty Affairs
 - CFA is discussing how emeritus/a faculty maintain their connection to the university:
 - Whether emeritus/a status should be reserved only for tenure line faculty, which is currently not the case;
 - Whether there should be specific expectations for emeritus/a status, or if this is more of an honorary title;
 - Whether a faculty member who has retired and then takes another faculty position at another university should maintain their emeritus status;
 - What benefits are bestowed or denied to an emeritus/a faculty member.
 - One senator expressed concerns that the current day and time (Friday afternoons) of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Cabinet meetings are difficult to attend due to the college course schedules. Discussions on this will occur at the next Cabinet meeting.
 - Brief discussion on how classes are going now that we are now in an endemic phase of COVID-19.
 - Students seem to be doing well and functioning normally, but there seems to be a small minority of students who are almost never in class. Also seems to be more enthusiasm from students now.
 - Some issues with transportation affecting attendance, likely due to decreased bus service. Many students leave class early to catch the bus.
 - A representative from the Parking and Transportation Committee will email senators about these concerns, which senators can then send to their faculty in their respective departments to elicit feedback and questions.
 - Another related concern was raised regarding the number of consistently unoccupied handicapped parking spaces on campus and the increased difficulty in finding parking spaces.
 - Question raised about the election of alternate senators.
 - Every unit/department is strongly encouraged to elect an alternate senator, but it is not required. Alternate senators can attend FS meetings in senators' place to meet quorum and vote; a random faculty member from the department cannot fulfill the duties of the senator in their place, but they can always attend FS meetings as guests.

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 3:57 p.m.