Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2023 @ 2:30pm
Torgersen 1050 or Via Zoom

Check-In:

Present: Joe Merola (presiding) Monty Abbas, Luke Achenie, Diane Agud, Barbara Allen (alternate for Jim Hawdon and Rebecca Hester), Richard Ashley, Albert Auguste, Paul Avey, Azziza Bankole, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Scott Case, Guopeng Cheng, Rebecca Cockrum, Carolyn Commer, Kristy Daniels, Jonathan Everett, Stuart Feigenbaum, Carla Finkielstein, Zhuo Fu, Becky Funk, Rodney Gaines, Scott Gartner, Aaron Gross (alternate for Jonathan Auguste), Wesley Gwaltney, E. Fanny Jasso-Hernandez (alternate for Josh Clemons), David Hicks, Daniel Hindman, Mantu Hudait, Joseph Hughes, Scott Huxtable, Ran Jin, Bryan Katz, Matthew Komelski (alternate for Rose Wesche), Catherine Larochelle, Evan Lavender-Smith, Renee LeClair, Justin Lemkul, Kim Loeffert, Gary Long, Guo-Quan Lu, Amanda MacDonald (alternate for Alex Kinnaman), Jason Malone, Eric Martin, Luca Massa, Michelle (Shelly) Maycock, Ali Mehrizi-Sani, Rachel Miles, Gonzalo Montero, David Moore (alternate for Renée LeClair), Zhange Ni, Greg Novack, Thomas O'Donnell, Robin Panneton, Nicole Pitterson, Steve Rideout, Susanna Rinehart, Jane Robertson Evia (alternate for Nicholas Robbins), Syrenthia Robinson (alternate for Stephanie Smith), Cori Ruktanonchai, Adrian Sandu, Charles J. Schleupner, Yang Shao, Richard Shryock, Charles Smith, Laura Strawn, Sharon Swanger (alternate for Yuchin Pan), Saied Taheri, Jay Teets, Jim Tokuhisa, Kwok Tsui, Alp Tural (alternate for Bill Green), Costin Untaroiu, Bimal Viswanath, Jeffrey Walling, Jerald Walz, Robert Weiss, Ashley Wilkinson, Hehuang Xie, Lu Zhang (alternate for Nazila Roofigari-Esfahan), Lizette Zietsman (79)

Guests: April Myers, Paolo Polanah, David Raymond, Amy Sebring, Dee Dee Somervell (5)

Absent with Notice: Biko Agozino, Charles Lowery, Angela Witcher Walker, Erin "Nikki" Worthington, Randy Wynne, Diane Zahm (6)

Absent: James Casey, Mark Coggins, Nicholas Copeland, Ashley Dayer, David Gregory, Leanna House, Young-Teck Kim, Leigh-Anne Krometis, Nino Ripepi, Hans Robinson, Karen Schnatterly, Eric Stanley, Keith Stephenson, Shane Wang, Yan Xu

Call to Order by the President Joe Merola at 2:34

Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Joe Merola)
- Consent agenda was adopted:
  - Minutes for 11-03-2023 (Link)
  - Agenda for 11-17-2023 (Link)

Business Agenda

Old Business

1. Updates & Announcements from Committees, Commissions, and University Council are available on the Faculty Senate SharePoint site.
2. Joe Merola called for nominations for representatives to the Faculty Senate of Virginia, three positions serving a one-year term and one serving a three-year term, and one representative for the Commission on Faculty Affairs.
   a. Nominations were received from the floor for representatives to the Faculty Senate of Virginia, and elections were held. Results follow.
      - Evan Lavender Smith, elected to serve a 1-year term
        - Voting: 60 Yes, 3 No
      - Barbara Allen, elected to serve a 1-year term
        - Voting: 58 Yes, 3 No, 2 Abstain
      - Jerald Walz, elected to serve a 1-year term
        - Voting: 58 Yes, 1 Abstain
      - Rodney Gaines, elected to serve a 3-year term
        - Voting: 57 Yes, 3 No, 3 Abstain
   b. Nominations were received from the floor for the Commission on Faculty Affairs, and elections were held. Results follow.
      - Rodney Gaines was elected to complete a term ending 2024
        - Voting: 54 Yes, 3 No, 6 Abstain

New Business

3. Joe Merola introduced discussion on the March 2023 Board of Visitors (BOV) resolution regarding Information Technology (IT) security and privacy policies. Robert Weiss presented language from the resolution to provide context. The resolution can be viewed on the BOV web page, https://bov.vt.edu/assets/Minutes-March%2019-20,%202023-30.pdf. The Faculty Senate welcomed David Raymond, Interim Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, and Randy Marchany, Information Technology Security Officer.
   a. Mr. Marchany provided background information on Virgnia Tech's IT security, data risk, and legal requirements for suspected or confirmed breaches of

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), or personally identifiable information. The biggest breach experienced at Virginia Tech was in 2021, which was a ransomware attack affecting 1,100 machines and resulted from a third-party software with a flaw that was manipulated by hackers.

b. Vice President and CIO David Raymond provided a brief overview of the recently created IT governance structure. IT governance focuses on IT policies and is comprised of an executive committee and several additional committees, some requiring faculty representation. Discussion is ongoing regarding the establishment of an employee group to serve when needed as a consultative body.

   i. Distinctions between university shared governance and IT governance were mentioned. Comments were made that there is uncertainty in understanding because, on the academic side, employees who may be impacted by a policy are included in the discussion while in IT governance, those constituencies are not included. Vice President Raymond stated that continued adjustments are expected to the IT governance structure.

   ii. A question was raised regarding the [IT Services and Systems Committee,](#) which is part of university shared governance. This committee has not been dissolved. Discussion is ongoing regarding how IT governance may interact with university shared governance.

   iii. A list of IT policies and standards can be found on the Division of Information Technology webpage, https://it.vt.edu/content/it_vt_edu/en/resources/policies.html.

c. Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Human Resources Management Policy 1.75, Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media, https://hr.dmas.virginia.gov/media/1226/19-dhrm-policy-175-use-of-electronic-communications-and-social-media-031711.pdf, was mentioned.

   i. This policy defines personal use of electronic communication and social media as use that is not job-related, and states that incidental and occasional use is permitted if it does not interfere with work performance by the user or other employees.

   ii. Questions were asked about how this is interpreted. Mr. Marchany indicated that interpretation of this policy is a human resources responsibility and should be made by individual departments.

   iii. Mr. Marchany pointed out language on page 5 in the Agency Responsibilities and Requirements section stating that users should have no expectation of privacy when using the Commonwealth's equipment and access, and that agencies have the right to monitor

electronic communications. He also reminded senators of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements.

    d. Policy 7010, Policy for Securing Technology Resources and Services, defines a technology resource. Virginia Tech includes all devices in this policy, and does not differentiate between computers and cell phones. Additional topics around personal devices were discussed.

        i. Personal devices used for university business must adhere to security guidelines, and any breaches, even if they are purely personal information, must be reported in accordance with legal requirements.

        ii. While personal phones on the Virgina Tech network are not actively monitored, endpoint protection scans all data, including that from personal devices.

4. David Raymond, Interim Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, introduced discussion and Q&A regarding the Google and Microsoft transition.

    a. There are two major aspects to this transition:

        i. The university community will need to manage storage across both Google and Microsoft systems. Basic Google storage will provide 45 GB per employee, while Microsoft provides 100 GB. It is recommended that Google storage be reserved for shared drives. Employees will retain access to all Google products except calendar, email, and photos.

        ii. Students, staff, and employees will migrate to a Microsoft email client. Microsoft provides tools for enhanced security.

    b. The University Enterprise Storage Architecture working group has been created under IT Governance. This group will determine storage needs across the university, review the data life cycle, consider resources needed to manage data, and provide recommendations to IT governance.

    c. Several technical issues were discussed: Implementation of the Google/Microsoft transition is occurring currently due to Google's deadline of July 2024. Information about the use of alternative cloud-based storage solutions can be obtained from the [Data Management Group](#). Zoom phones require a connection to a network, cellular service, or Wi-Fi. There have not been any concerns with service/access reported by those using Zoom phones.

5. Carla Finkelstein presented for 2nd Reading and Vote for Commission on Research (COR) Resolution 2023-24A: Resolution to Revise Policy 13040: Virginia Tech Human Subjects Research Policy.

    a. A motion was made and seconded to approve COR Resolution 2023-24A: Resolution to Revise Policy 13040: Virginia Tech Human Subjects Research

Policy. There were no further comments. The resolution passed, 53 Yes, 2 Abstain.

6. Carla Finkelstein presented for 2nd Reading and Vote for COR Resolution 2023-24B: Resolution to Revise Policies 13005 and 3020 on Center and Institute Establishment, Oversight, and Governance and Financial and Administrative Procedures. Feedback was received from the Faculty Senate, and changes were made to address the concerns.

    a. A motion was made and seconded to approve COR Resolution 2023-24B: Resolution to Revise Policies 13005 and 3020 on Center and Institute Establishment, Oversight, and Governance and Financial and Administrative Procedures. There was no additional discussion. The resolution passed, 52 Yes, 4 Abstain.

7. Joe Merola opened a discussion on shared governance. The questions distributed by the Office of the Vice President for Policy and Governance on behalf of the University Council Cabinet have been shared with leaders across shared governance groups. In addition to the questions provided specifically to governance bodies, a general survey was also distributed to the campus community.

    a. Some senators have reported that a lack of understanding of shared governance exists. Limited discussion was held around this topic. Anyone with specific questions about shared governance is asked to email those to the Faculty Senate officers and Robert Weiss, the Faculty Senate past president, who can provide additional information.

    b. Some senators asked how the Faculty Senate contributes to shared governance collectively. The Faculty Senate contributes by shaping policies that are ultimately submitted to the Virginia Tech President and Board of Visitors. Per the code of Virginia, the Board of Visitors holds decision-making authority. The Faculty Senate leadership will send an email to senators providing links to resources from the shared governance website, including the Resolution Tracker and tutorials, which can then be forwarded to senators' constituents.

    c. There is a deadline for the Faculty Senate to provide feedback to the University Council Cabinet by December 15. Anyone with additional feedback is asked to provide their comments to Joe Merola.

8. Joe Merola provided a summary of the November Board of Visitors meeting and the Faculty Senate constituency report. The report can be found on the BOV web page, https://bov.vt.edu/assets/Minutes-November%205-6,%202023-196.pdf. Any senators with issues of concern are asked to send those to Joe so they can be considered for future reports.

Open Floor Discussion

9. No items were presented for open floor discussion.

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 4:18 p.m.