

Faculty Senate President's Annual Report  
Presented to the  
Virginia Tech Board of Visitors  
June 2 , 2019  
John Ferris, Virginia Tech Faculty Senate President

Good afternoon Rector Treacy, President Sands, members of the Board, Provost Clarke, and all others gathered here today.

The Faculty Senate President is given the opportunity to prepare an annual report of the Faculty Senate's accomplishments and distribute it to the senate, faculty, administration, and Board of Visitors. Out of respect for faculty time, the scarcest academic resource, I will be brief in highlighting our accomplishments by thanking faculty members for their service and showing the many ways faculty senate champions the academic mission of the university.

First, the work done by all the senators on the University Commissions and Committees to provide a faculty voice in our system of governance.

Ryan Speer and the Faculty Senate Resolution Review Committee have demonstrated how faculty provide both meaningful and efficient input on academic resolutions.

Kira Dietz, Kiri Goldbeck-DeBose, and Anthony Wright de Hernandez are working with the Library Faculty Association and the Provost's office to revise the promotion process for faculty on Continued Appointment now that the Virginia Cooperative Extension no longer hires on that track. The process shows how collaboration with the Faculty Senate can be a significant part of responding to changes within the university while balancing the complex needs of numerous constituencies.

Emily Wilkinson Stallings led the Faculty Senate Committee on Assessment of Faculty Teaching and Jim Kuypers led the Faculty Senate Committee on Assessment of Faculty Research. Both of these committees -- chaired and staffed primarily by non-senators -- demonstrate the commitment to service on the part of faculty and the role of senate leadership in focusing faculty on specific tasks.

Finally, our team of officers. Marie Paretti, our Secretary/Treasurer, concisely captured both the tone and pertinent details of our meetings and, more importantly, consistently provided insight into many of the topics we discussed. The wisdom of our past Faculty Senate Presidents -- Hans Robinson and Monty Abbas -- continued to guide me. Last, Bob Hicok, our Vice President, worked tirelessly behind the scenes to build trust and lay the groundwork for many of our initiatives, culminating in several proposed revisions to the faculty Handbook, not the least of which are improvements to our Promotion and Tenure process.

Looking ahead, the Faculty Senate will continue to strengthen our structure in order to support our initiatives and better serve our faculty and the university. We look forward to continuing our work on improved governance (e.g., through the President's Committee on Governance), proper use of faculty time (e.g., through the Organizational Excellence Task Force), and proper assessment of faculty achievements (e.g., through a revised promotion and tenure process and the assessment committees I mentioned earlier). As stewards of

the academy, faculty will continue to serve, protect and champion our academic mission. Together we have an unparalleled breadth and depth of expertise and are committed to working with the Board, the administration, staff and students to make the most of Virginia Tech's opportunities and challenges.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Faculty Senate,

John Ferris