

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2020, @ 2:30pm, Via Zoom

Senators Present: Monty Abbas, Diane Agud, Robin Allnutt, Susan Anderson, Masoud Agah, Richard Ashley, Paul Avey, Azziza Bankole, Arthur Ball, Joseph Baker, Sarah Barrett, Hilary Bryon, Charles Calderwood, Leandro Castello, Cathryn Copper, Benjamin Corl, Harry Dorn, Robert Dunay, John Ferris, Carla Finkelstein, Nicolin Girmes-Grieco, Al Hagy, James Hawdon, Bob Hicok, Daniel Hindman, Ran Jin,, Eric Kaufman, Bradley Klein, Jacob Lahne, Eduardo Lara-Torre, Evan Lavender-Smith, Roberto Leon, Justin Lemkul, Jonathan Maher, Paul Marek, Frances McCarty, Polly Middleton, Thomas Mills, Mike Nappier, Amy Nelson, Aaron Noble, Chris Pierce, Nicole Pitterson, Scott Pleasant, Robin Queen, Susanna Rinehart, Hans Robinson, Todd Schenk, Peter Schmitthenner, Yang Shao, Richard Shryock, Eric Stanley, Jay Teets, Steve Thompson, Tess Thompson, Jim Tokuhisa, Diego Troya, Bruce Vogelaar, A.K. Ward, Layne Watson, Robert Weiss, Cindy Wood, Anthony Wright de Hernandez, Hehuang Xie, Liquing Zhang

Guests Present: Anneliese, Esther Bauer, Cameron Donaldson, April Myers, Jennifer Nardine, Ellen Plummer, Roger Ramirez-Barrios, Coogan Thompson

Call to Order & Guiding Questions

Eric Kaufman began the meeting by explaining how to register for Dr. Bissell's Zoom webinar. He noted that the Faculty Senate meeting would end at 3pm so that faculty would have the opportunity to attend the seminar. He also initiated the attendance poll for the meeting and shared the following guiding questions:

1. How can we best characterize faculty questions and sentiments about Spring 2021?
2. What are lingering questions or concerns about changes to shared governance?

Consent Agenda

Susan Anderson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, and Diane Agud seconded. There were no objections; the following was approved by unanimous consent.

- Approve and post October 30, 2020, meeting minutes.

Brief Updates and Announcements

- Eric Kaufman shared the dates for the spring semester Faculty Senate meetings.
- Eric Kaufman attached a link to the [BOV constituency report](#) as well as the [BOV meeting agenda](#).
- Eric Kaufman noted that the Faculty Senate Cabinet was considering the SGA request for academic support regarding grade options. He mentioned that if there were thoughts or concerns about the request, a member of the cabinet should be contacted.
 - A senator asked if the letter could be shared with faculty outside of the Faculty Senate?
 - Eric Kaufman indicated that sharing the letter with other Faculty would be okay.
- Eric Kaufman shared a news report on the [New OSP Award Management Program](#).
- Others?

Ongoing Considerations for Spring Instruction

- Eric Kaufman noted that the Faculty Senate may choose to finalize and formalize a statement on planning for the Spring 2021 semester.
 - Susanna Rinehart suggested that a statement from the Faculty Senate would be beneficial. She also mentioned that there has been a side-lining of the faculty as the SGA engages directly with the Provost. Including faculty in the conversation would help communication and shared governance.
 - Roberto Leon asked if classrooms were being evaluated for proper airflow. He asked if that information would be used to determine which classrooms would be used in the next semester.
 - Eric Kaufman noted that he had not heard any updates on air flow since the summer and that Dr. Bissell's forum would be a good resource to get more information on the issue.
- Eric Kaufman noted that other universities were receiving different feedback from students and faculty regarding success in different classroom modalities. He shared the following article: [Inside HigherEd: "Are Students Happier with Virtual Learning this Fall? A Little."](#)

Shared Governance Update (Bob Hicok)

- Bob Hicok shared an overview of the *Proposal for Revision to Shared Governance at Virginia Tech*. He focused on Resolution D, as shared governance was planned to be discussed at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Bob Hicok noted that language on reappointment was corrected in the resolution. He also shared that the resolution stated that if there was a disagreement at the department level, a revision by the dean and the college level committee would be automatic.
- Eric Kaufman noted that if a formal comment was requested, the senate could work to develop a statement. Otherwise, the cabinet may waive the right to comment.

Other Business

- No updates or announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55pm to a separate forum with Noelle Bissell, Mike Mulhare, and Laura Hungerford.

Submitted by Cameron Donaldson, Undergraduate Assistant