

Faculty Senate Agenda & Minutes

September 27, 2019, 2:30-4:30pm

Location: NCB 160 (or [via Zoom](#) for those outside Blacksburg)

Present: Masoud Agah, Biko Agozino, Diane Agud, Robin Allnutt, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Arthur Ball, Michael Borowski, Tanyel Bulbul, Charles Calderwood, Leandro Castello, Virgilio Centeno, Harry Dorn, John Ferris, John Galbraith, Ellen Gilliland, Nicolin Girmes-Grieco, Roie Hauser, James Hawdon, Dana Hawley, Bob Hicok, Christine Kaestle, Eric Kaufman, Bettina Koch, Jake Lahne, Roberto Leon, Paul Marek, Eric Martin, Gail McMillan (alternate for Anthony Wright de Hernandez), Mike Nappier, R. Scott Pleasant, Robin Queen, Todd Schenk, Yang Shao, Ryan Speer, Jim Tokuhisa, Mark Van Dyke, Layne Watson, Robert Weiss

Guests: Edward Lener (CVC), Coogan Thompson (GSA), Anita Walz (Libraries)

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved by unanimous consent.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of September 13th meeting approved with minor edits.

Announcements

Bob Hicok shared that progress is being made on [Updates to Promotion & Tenure Guidelines](#). There will be an additional meeting with CFA discussion before adding this as an agenda item for Faculty Senate review.

Topic 1: [Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign](#)

Edward Lener, Chair of the CVC Steering Team, shared about the campaign. Kick-off for the campaign is Monday, September 30th. The Honorary Chair for 2019 is Dawn Jeffries. Participation allows for giving to a wide range of charities, all of whom have gone through a screening process. Goals for 2019 include \$390,000 in total giving and boosting overall participation to over 20% of employees, while also increasing the proportion of designated gifts. Donations are confidential. 95% of donations go to the designated charity; the remainder covers state expenses for administering the campaign. Please participate if you are able.

Topic 2: Bylaws Amendments

John Ferris and Jim Hawdon shared updates on [proposed amendments to Faculty Senate Bylaws](#). The amendments relate to both selection of senators and officers.

Members moved to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws by adding the following to Article II, Nomination and Election of Senators:

“B. Eligibility: While academic units (e.g., departments) are encouraged to limit Faculty Senate representatives to no more than three consecutive terms (full or partial), the determination for eligibility for reappointment shall be made by a vote among faculty within the academic unit.”

The motion was seconded. Discussion noted this addition is in response to recent amendments to the Faculty Senate Constitution that now note term limits are described in

the Bylaws. Concerns about faculty service requirements can be addressed in future discussions. 39 Senators voted in favor of the amendment, with no votes against and no abstentions.

Discussions continued regarding an amendment that addresses term limits with the Faculty Senate cabinet and officer roles. Members moved to amend the Faculty Senate Bylaws by adding the following to Article IV, Nominations and Elections by the Faculty Senate:

“B. Eligibility: For purposes of nomination, voting, and election, ‘faculty’ includes any person eligible to serve in the Faculty Senate as defined in article III, section 2 of the Faculty Senate constitution. Faculty Senate officers may serve more than three consecutive full terms in one office only if they are elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Faculty Senate membership. Faculty Senate cabinet members who are not senate officers may serve more than three consecutive full terms only if they are elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Faculty Senate membership. Members of the Committee on Reconciliation may serve more than three consecutive terms (full or partial) only if they are elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Faculty Senate membership. Faculty Senate nominated representatives to University Committees may serve more than three consecutive terms (full or partial) only if they are elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the Faculty Senate membership.”

The motion was seconded. Discussion noted this amendment relates to one-year terms (in contrast to the previous amendment, which related to three-year terms). 39 Senators voted in favor of the amendment, with no votes against and no abstentions.

Topic 3: [Open Educational Resources guidelines](#)

Bob Hicok introduced Anita Walz, Assistant Director for Open Education and Scholarly Communication Librarian. The two of them offered background on the recent state mandate to adopt guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER). The 2018-19 OER Guidelines Working Group included Steven Allingson, Benjamin Jantzen, Gail McMillan, Anita Walz, and Lizette Zeitsman. However, nothing has been adopted from last year’s efforts. Open Access is different from OER. OERs tend to use Creative Commons licenses. Federal and State government entities have been involved in supporting OERs. [Virginia Tech policy 6400](#) is the existing policy for textbook adoption at Virginia Tech. The OER guidelines being crafted would be supplemental to that policy. Now is the time for faculty to provide input on OER guidelines, if we so wish. Senators raised questions about appropriate attribution of original source (prior to adaptation). Bob encourage Faculty Senators to solicit input and consideration from the faculty in their home departments. The interest from students often relates to financial considerations. One Senator proposed the Faculty Senate put forward a statement with three points: (1) We’re supportive of OER efforts; (2) faculty retain control over selection of course resources, and (3) faculty want to be involved in the ongoing development of guidelines. Another faculty member expressed concern about the potential of students demanding more adoption of OERs. After lengthy discussion, the group agreed to continue the conversation during a future meeting.

Topic 4: Faculty Senate Committees

John Ferris will address Faculty Senate committees during a future meeting. Specifically, the standing committees include:

- [Committee on Faculty Ethics](#)
- [Committee on Reconciliation](#)
- [Faculty Review Committee](#)

Topic 5: Recruiting Non-Senators to Faculty Senate Committee Work

John Ferris shared concerns about too much faculty time being mandated for online trainings. TLOS is requesting faculty input on streamlining on-line training. This is an opportunity for other faculty to be involved in addressing this issue.

Other Business

No further business presented.

Adjourn

The meeting formally adjourned at 4:08pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Kaufman, Faculty Senate Secretary.