

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
February 20, 2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

Monty Abbas, Masoud Agah, Biko Agozino, Diane Agud, Robin Allnut, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Jacob Barney, Michael Borowski, Tanyel Bulbul, James Campbell, Virgilio Centeno, Alan Esker, John Ferris, William Galloway, LuAnn Gaskill, Ellen Gilliland, Tracy Gilmore, Nicolin Girmes-Grieco, James Hawdon, Bob Hicok, Eric Kaufman, Bradley Klein, Bettina Koch, Roberto Leon, Eric Lyon, Zachary Mackey, Shelley Martin, Margarita McGrath, Philip Olson, Marie Parette, Anita Puckett, David Radcliffe, Hans Robinson, Todd Schenk, Richard Shryock, Manisha Singal, Eric Smith, Ryan Speer, Cornel Sultan, David Tegarden, Jim Tokuhisa, Benjamin Tracy, Diego Troya, Bruce Vogelaar, and Layne Watson. (46 senators).

ABSENT:

Alan Abrahams, Mehdi Ahmadian, Gregory Amacher, Osman Balci, Arthur Ball, Bonnie Billingsley, Carlyle Brewster, Bryan Brown, Robert Bush, Stefan Duma, Joseph Gabbard, Sierra Guynn, Roger Harris, Kathy Hosig, Sara Jordan, Chang Lu, Cayce Myers, Mike Nappier, Sean O'Keefe, Doug Patterson, John Richey, Susanna Rinehart, Tina Savla, Brett Shadle, Gary Skaggs, Stephen Smith, Jim Spotila, Divya Srinivasan, Dean Stauffer, Kelly Trogdon, Dwight Viehland, and Ryan Zimmerman. (32 senators).

1) Agenda

With one revision in order, the agenda was approved.

2) Minutes

The minutes from the February 6, 2018 meeting were approved.

3) Governance appointment

Philip Olson volunteered to serve a two-year appointment to the Selection Committee for the President's Award for Excellence.

4) Governance resolutions

Two resolutions were discussed, CGS&P 2017-18A, "Resolution to Incorporate an Inclusion and Diversity Education Component into Graduate Education," and UC 2017-18B, "Resolution to Approve the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine Doctor of Medicine (MD) Degree program."

After a long discussion of CGS&P 2017-18A, which resolves, in part, that "all graduate students participate in inclusion and diversity educational programs as part of their graduate studies," the senate expressed strong support for the values reflected in the resolution but had the following questions and concerns:

- 1) Will course credit be required?
- 2) Can existing courses satisfy the requirements?
- 3) How do we know what counts?

4) Many were concerned about balancing the need for rigor with the time we would ask already busy students to commit to this requirement.

5) What is the expected outcome/scope/content/methodology for this material?

6) Will departments be trusted to develop their own content?

Hans Robinson agreed to write a letter to CGS&P and ask for a deferment of this resolution to allow for greater consideration of the issues it raises.

Due to a bureaucratic snafu with SACS and a looming deadline, UC 2017-18B, which resolves “that the University Council votes to affirm and approve the integration of the VTCSOM as a college within Virginia Tech; and that the University Council votes to approve the integration of the VTCSOM’s Doctor of Medicine degree and existing curriculum into the university’s graduate offerings,” was introduced directly to the University Council, and passed on to the senate for comment.

Ellen Plummer, Associate Vice Provost for Administration, Skyped in to answer questions. After a brief discussion, the senate voted to back the resolution. Hans Robinson will write a letter of support.

5) EFARs status

Extending a long-standing tradition, the senate revisited the use of EFARs across campus. At the end of deliberations, Hans Robinson agreed to write a letter to the provost in which he would ask the university to devote more resources and personnel to the development of the software.

6) Ombuds office

The creation of an Ombuds office, which has been stalled due to concerns President Sands has about cost estimates, is an issue of great importance to faculty. The senate asked Hans Robinson to speak to President Sands about this issue.

7) Status of the Institutional Review Board

In the little bit of time remaining, the IRB’s (Institutional Review Board’s) current month-long backlog was briefly discussed. The senate agreed to ask Theresa Meyer, Vice President for Research and Innovation, to come to the senate to talk about solutions for the critical problem.

8) The meeting adjourned at 7:00.