

Connie Stovall, acting recorder

**Attending:** Agud, Akers, Bassett, Ellerbrock, Floyd, Hausman, Hein, Hosig, Jarrott, Kuypers, Larson, Lazar, Long, Maycock, Niewolny, Pencek, Pollio, Puckett, Reed, Roan, Russell, Settlage, Stivachtis, Stovall, Vance, Vinatzer, Vlachos, Vollmer, Wilkins, Zajac.

1. **Minutes and November meeting minutes approved**
2. **Visitor Will Lewis, Vice President for Office of Diversity and Inclusion:** Banner/sticker “Strong Together ” campaign. Have t-shirts, too. Intentional conversation; some shirts say strong, some say together; when you see person with opposite on their shirt, talk to them. Send him reactions to [wtlewis@vt.edu](mailto:wtlewis@vt.edu)

Hopes to elevate research, especially regarding diversity and inclusion. Want to put abstracts in a place where they can all be accessed by all VT community. Work with University Libraries. Bernice would like them to define diversity and scholarship; terminology different than the way she typically uses the terms.

3. **Reports:**

Pilot use of McComas Hall by faculty. First 100 faculty to sign up for pilot will be given membership and further decisions will be based on results of pilot.

Conviction checks: tabled in CFA; time limit at issue; Steger wants this to slow down; probably will be reviewed internally; checks are supposed to bring us in compliance with state and federal agencies

4. **Stadium Woods:**

- a. Presented resolution: Jim Kuypers
- b. Invited Eric Wiseman, outside expert speaker from Urban Forestry dept and arboretum committee: shouldn't get caught up on term “old growth forests.” What's important is location; look at map, no other landscape like this north of Southgate; doesn't want to speculate on how important the spot is in the larger context. Steger is going to walk over the site; earth survey has been conducted, 60 species of bird stop and or nest there; the resolution is not to voice against the building of the indoor facility; arboretum committee was not initially consulted, despite letter from Sherwood Wilson.
- c. Resolution passed.

5. **Dean Review:** Bernice Houseman, CLAHS; not a resolution, but a discussion on expression of concern;

- a. Approved by majority of CLAHS faculty senators (not formerly done)
- b. Provost actions may be deviation from policy 6105
- c. Committees don't make decision on retention;

- d. No objections to members of the committee, but the process by which it was created. All the persons chosen were not on the original list created by faculty. Other persons were appointed by the provost
  - e. Should CLAHS faculty association be dealing with this rather than Faculty Senate: she'd argue that this is a larger problem in that it involves the provost; university level problem, whether provost treating colleges differently; one senator. points out that the provost has offered to meet with them and does not want to call the provost in to faculty senate to explain himself until they meet with him; another suggested that this go faculty affairs; suggestion to fix language and remove the last sentence about the provost; motion to encourage f.s. to meet w provost office; did not get; division of the house. Passes.
  - f. CFA could look into how the policy is followed and what faculty/ admin should be chair;
6. **Self Study:** where faculty senate sits within larger context; what's our purpose? Why are we here? How can we do this better? Just be thinking of this.
7. **Shooting:** sent out a brief plausible message of condolences to police dept, came up blank on what to say Officer Crouse's family; do we want to get involved collectively involved in making a donation; VT police dept: expression is appropriate to both parties; don't need to raise funds; recommendations for family, let Bruce know; Anita Puckett will help after grades are in