

**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015

**Place:** Pamplin 32

**Time:** 5:15 p.m.

**Chair:** Bernice Hausman

**Minutes:** Rebecca Miller

**Attending:** Monty Abbas, Robin Allnutt, Susan Anderson, Richard Ashley, Robert Bush, Daniel Breslau, Maria Belen Cassera, Benjamin Corl, Rami Dalloul, Alex Dickow, William Ducker, Charlene Eska, Felicia Etzkorn, Leon Geyer, Rosemary Goss, Ralph Hall, Bernice Hausman, Wat Hopkins, Jenny Lo, Joe Merola, Rebecca Miller, Sakiko Okumoto, Jim Parkhurst, Mayur Patil, Wornie Reed, Christine Kaestle (for Tina Savla), Hannah Scherer, Heinrich Schnoedt, Deborah Smith, David Tegarden, Dan Thorp, Eric Vance, Layne Watson, Kiri Debose (for Philip Young)

A quorum was not met for this meeting, with only 34 senators in attendance.

**Guests:** Ellen Plummer, Scott Midkiff, Dale Pike, Scott Weimer, and Matt Earnest

**Meeting purpose:** Regular Faculty Senate meeting

**Agenda items:** Approval of the agenda

Approval of the minutes from the March 31, 2015 and April 14, 2015 meetings

Announcements

Visitors

Old business

New business

Faculty Senate Vice President Rami Dalloul called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

**Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda was seconded and passed by unanimous decision.

**Agenda item 2: Approval of the minutes from the March 31, 2015 and April 14, 2015 meetings**

Motion to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2015 and April 14, 2015 meetings with minor revisions was seconded and passed by unanimous decision.

### **Agenda item 3: Announcements**

On May 1, 2015, there will be a forum on the Public University from 7-9 p.m. in Goodwin Auditorium. President Sands, Wat Hopkins, Marc Edwards, and Carol Mullen will all speak. This is sponsored by the Virginia Tech AAUP chapter, and will focus around themes of academic freedom, pedagogy, and public scholarship. The goal of the event is to introduce the AAUP chapter to the campus and demonstrate its commitment to real issues for Virginia Tech faculty and the rest of the Virginia Tech community.

### **Agenda item 4: Visitors**

*Ellen Plummer, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Administration*

Ellen Plummer visited the Faculty Senate to share her experiences working on sexual assault legislation in Richmond. She took on a leadership role in the Governor's Task Force on campus sexual assault. After the November 2014 *Rolling Stone* article about sexual assault at the University of Virginia, Dr. Plummer was also heavily involved in legislation related to sexual assault on college campuses.

Dr. Plummer reported that there were around 30 distinct pieces of legislation related to campus sexual assault going through the Virginia General Assembly. These 30 bills eventually turned into three laws that will go into effect on July 1, 2015:

- HB 1930 (Bell)/SB 712 (Black): Enacted
  - Emphasizes communication with local law enforcement
  - Requirements for complaint notification
  - MOU with victim advocacy organization
  - Policy update certification to SCHEV
- HB 1784 (Massie): Enacted Chapter 707
  - Law enforcement memoranda of understanding/mutual aid agreements
  - Campuses must notify Commonwealth's Attorney within 48 hours of beginning a criminal investigation
- HB 1193 (Norment): Not yet enacted
  - Transcript notation for suspension, dismissal, or withdrawal under investigation for violation of sexual misconduct policy

The state government will be providing resources to institutions to help with mandates and obligations that have been laid upon universities by the federal and state governments. Further, the state will be convening communities of practice about how campuses can navigate being responsive to survivors while also remaining compliant with federal and state obligations.

Dr. Plummer also reminded faculty that if someone has an issue, referring that individual to the Women's Center is a best practice, since the Women's Center does not have to disclose information. However, if someone or something poses a threat, even the Women's Center cannot keep that information confidential.

*Scott Midkiff and Dale Pike, Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies (TLOS)*

Scott Midkiff and Dale Pike visited with the Faculty Senate in order to discuss the new learning management system (LMS) at Virginia Tech. There is a handout in the April 28 Agenda folder in Scholar.

TLOS has facilitated a number of town hall meetings on the LMS change, and they are still gathering input on the change. They indicated that Scholar, Virginia Tech's current LMS, includes four functions: course sites, project sites, e-portfolios, and SPOT online. While searching for a new LMS, TLOS is considering these as four parallel projects and separate conversations.

The conversation held during the Faculty Senate meeting focused around gathering input from faculty. The conversation included a number of topics:

4 parallel projects

TLOS leadership indicated that the goal was to find a tool that will do as much as possible. The frontrunner is Canvas, but it is not yet clear that Canvas will do everything (including course sites, project sites, e-portfolios, and SPOT online) that the Virginia Tech community expects from Scholar.

Textbook compatibility

A number of faculty use textbooks that come with test banks that are built specifically for Blackboard. They would like for whichever LMS is selected to be compatible with these test banks. TLOS leadership indicated that there are conversion tools available in order to help convert Sakai material to other LMS tools. There are publishers that integrate with Canvas and other LMS tools, and those might also be an option.

Number of clicks

Currently, the Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine uses Blackboard, and it is clear that Scholar has reduced the number of clicks needed to complete tasks. Studies show that Canvas further reduces the number of clicks needed to complete tasks.

Add-ons

It would be great if citation management systems could tie into whichever LMS Virginia Tech ends up with.

Frequent changes

Virginia Tech has only had Scholar for seven years, and TLOS leadership indicated that this number is actually pretty good. There is no sense of whether or not there would be another change after the switch to whichever LMS Virginia Tech switches to, since technology can be difficult to forecast.

Google ecosystem

Google currently provides Apps and Google Classroom that create a robust ecosystem; however, Google Classroom does not perform all of the functions that we need. For example, it does not offer the ability to populate student roles easily. General reviews suggest that Google Classroom is great for the K-12 environment, but not sophisticated enough for what Virginia Tech uses an LMS for.

### Rollout timeline

There will be a decision on the new LMS by May 15, 2015. The software will be available this summer for development, and faculty can begin to use it in Fall 2015. The complete transition will take place by Spring 2017.

### *Scott Weimer and Matt Earnest, Continuing and Professional Education (CPE)*

Scott Weimer and Matt Earnest visited with Faculty Senate in order to discuss the Technical Assistance Program (TAP), which provides faculty with a special contractual vehicle for developing collaborative relationships with external organizations.

TAP creates a project fund and handles details of consulting, including invoicing, billing, non-disclosure agreements, and purchasing. The office is funded through the contracts it helps negotiate: 30% goes to the university, 20% goes to CPE, and a standard administrative fee covers paperwork costs. More information is available on the CPE website: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/home/solutions/>.

### **Agenda item 5: Old business**

#### *Faculty Senate elections and positions for 2015-16*

#### Officer elections

Hans Robinson has been nominated to stand for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. He expects to be elected a senator from Physics next week (by May 7, 2015). The expectation is that he will stay on as Secretary/Treasurer throughout the entire year. Hans has served as chair of the Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies (CGSP) and is active in governance. Hans spoke briefly about his interest in the Secretary/Treasurer role.

Rami Dalloul has agreed to stand as a candidate for President. Monty Abbas has agreed to stand as a candidate for Vice President.

There was a brief discussion about rethinking elected officers in the Faculty Senate, and perhaps adding another position (President-Elect) that would help with the President's workload. This discussion also included considering a teaching buyout for the Faculty Senate President, or seeking substantial administrative assistance.

In terms of Faculty Senate work in the future, current President Bernice Hausman will carry the governance proposal through governance, but will not consider a second term as Faculty Senate President.

#### Committee and commission elections

The available positions on committees and commissions are available in the April 28 Meeting Agenda folder on the Faculty Senate Scholar site. There are currently 16 open positions; please consider nominating yourself or another senator.

### *Governance*

The current proposal is in development in consultation with President Sands. The strategy for moving this proposal through governance is to put a resolution through University Council in early fall that requests 6 specific commissions (CFA, CEOD, CUSP, CGSP, COR, and COIA) automatically refer resolutions to the Faculty Senate before the first reading at University Council. Faculty Senate recommendations and deliberations will accompany the resolution when it is considered at University Council.

The Faculty Senate will support Staff Senate if it wants to request automatic referrals of resolutions from some commissions before the first reading at University Council.

We will accept student representatives from GSA and SGA to participate in Faculty Senate according to the Faculty Senate Constitution, which would require students to be observers or ex-officio members.

There may be an electronic vote on the specific strategy and resolution over the summer.

### **Agenda item 6: New business**

#### *Meeting with President Sands*

There is currently an outstanding invitation to President Sands for his attendance at an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting. He may be able to attend the last Faculty Senate meeting of the year on May 12, 2015, after which we will host a Faculty Senate reception for the Provost. This will take place from 5-7 p.m. on May 12 at the University Club.

#### *Future Faculty Senate plans*

The meeting time of the Faculty Senate may be adjusted in order to address the problems with meeting after 5 p.m. It is possible that the Faculty Senate will meet from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, every other week.

The Senate will continue to meet every two weeks, as our new position in the governance structure will necessitate quick action. Meetings may be shorter, and the Senate may be able to adjust once it becomes comfortable with the new work flow.

Four new Faculty Senate committees will be created: Undergraduate Studies & Policies, Graduate Studies & Policies, Research, and Faculty Affairs. These committees will bring forward to the full Senate the resolutions sent from the corresponding commissions and will be responsible for recommending action to the Senate.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 5:00 p.m., at the University Club**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.