

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2014

Place: Pamplin 32

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Chair: Bernice Hausman

Minutes: Rebecca Miller and Rami Dalloul

Attending: Monty Abbas, Robin Allnutt, Susan Anderson, Nahum Arav, Richard Ashley, Godmar Back, Joseph Baker, Daniel Breslau, Virgil Centeno, Benjamin Corl, Rami Dalloul, Alex Dickow, William Ducker, Charlene Eska, Felicia Etzkorn, Hans Gindlesberger, Rosemary Goss, Deborah Good, Bernice Hausman, Wat Hopkins, David Jacobsen, Bradley Klein, Chad Lavin, Adi Livnat, Jenny Lo, Gerald Luttrell, Mary Marchant, Joe Merola, Rebecca Miller, Michael Moehler, Sean O'Keefe, Sakiko Okumoto, Mayur Patil, Paulo Polanah, Anita Puckett, Henry Quesada, Wornie Reed, John Richey, Kamal Rojiani, Ahmad Safaai-Jazi, Scott Salom, Hannah Scherer, Madeline Schreiber, Deborah Smith, David Tegarden, Bruce Vogelaar, Layne Watson, Jay Wilkins, Philip Young

A quorum was met for this meeting.

Guests: Jill Sible, Stephen Biscotte, and Marlene Preston

Meeting purpose: Regular Faculty Senate meeting

Agenda items: Approval of the agenda

Introductions and basic orientation

Election of cabinet representatives from each college

President's report on status of governance proposal

Discussion on proposal to replace Curriculum for Liberal Education

Faculty Senate President Bernice Hausman called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Agenda item 1: Approval of the agenda

Motion was made and approved to accept the agenda for the September 2, 2014 meeting. In response to a question about adding to the agenda an item concerning the frequency of Faculty Senate meetings, President Hausman asked that the item be discussed by the Faculty Senate Cabinet in order to discuss the topic at a future Faculty Senate meeting.

Agenda item 2: Introductions and basic orientation

President Hausman reviewed basic information about communication and responsibilities for senators. Senators were made aware of the orientation materials and folders available via the **Faculty Senate Scholar page**, and were shown the Faculty Senate web page: **blogs.lt.vt.edu/facultysenate**

President Hausman reviewed the Faculty Senate meeting schedule, which indicates that the Faculty Senate will meet once every two weeks, rather than once a month. The rationale behind this change is that it is not clear that the Faculty Senate can conduct its business successfully with once-a-month meetings. Prior to the meeting, there was one request to revisit this decision, which was made by the provisional cabinet during summer 2014, and President Hausman stated that **the official cabinet will make a decision about the new schedule at its first meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2014.**

During the discussion of the frequency of Faculty Senate meetings, a senator asked for a discussion of new, bi-weekly schedule during the September 2, 2014 meeting. A motion was made and seconded that the Faculty Senate meet every two weeks. During the discussion, a motion to table the discussion on the frequency of Faculty Senate meetings was seconded and passed. A straw poll was taken in order to gather data that would inform the cabinet meeting on September 9, 2014, which yielded a majority, with a significant minority, that approved of meeting more than once a month. The cabinet will review the discussion and make a decision at the September 9, 2014 cabinet meeting.

President Hausman also indicated that the Faculty Senate may need to change its meeting time because the assigned room (Pamplin 32) is not large enough for the full Faculty Senate. **The cabinet will review this issue at its first meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, and make a recommendation.**

President Hausman asked that senators send an alternate from their departments in the event of a senator's known absence from a Faculty Senate meeting.

Agenda item 3: Election of cabinet representatives from each college

President Hausman announced that the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, and the Library already have representatives on the cabinet, since the three Faculty Senate officers are from these colleges. President Hausman indicated that cabinet members commit to meeting on the Tuesday nights on which there are no Faculty Senate meetings, and to contributing to strategic decisions throughout the year.

Each college without representation was asked to elect a representative and an alternate during the meeting. Elected representatives were:

- College of Science: Rick Ashley (alternate: Debbie Smith)
- College of Engineering: Monty Abbas
- College of Business: David Tegarden
- College of Veterinary Medicine: Anne Zajac
- College of Natural Resources and the Environment: Henry Quesada Pineda
- College of Architecture and Urban Studies: Ralph Hall
- College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences: Bernice Hausman
- Library: Rebecca Miller (alternate: Philip Young)
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Rami Dalloul

President Hausman also asked for someone to represent the Faculty Senate on the Strategic Budgeting and Planning Committee, which meets one Thursday a month from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Agenda item 4: President’s report on status of governance proposal

President Hausman filed the report in the governance folder, along with final versions of the proposal that were sent to President Sands and Provost McNamee. President Hausman summarized the outcomes of the Faculty Senate officers’ meeting with President Sands, Provost McNamee, and Vice Provost Finney and asked for suggestions for next steps.

Suggestions for next steps included:

- Bringing in advisory entities to review our shared governance system
- Request that all resolutions from committees and commissions that relate to faculty affairs be sent to Faculty Senate for review and comment
- Work to make University Council more functional

Agenda item 5: Discussion on proposal to replace Curriculum for Liberal Education

Jill Sible, Stephen Biscotte, and Marlene Preston visited with Faculty Senate in order to discuss the proposal to replace the Curriculum for Liberal Education with the “Pathways to Knowing.” Senators were asked to offer questions that clarify items in the proposal in order for the Faculty Senate to be able to deliberate the proposed revision during the September 16, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting. Questions and answers were discussed as follows:

Question	Answer
Is the proposal final, and ready to go through governance?	Informational materials will be modified based on further discussion
Why are the number of credits not neutral?	No additional requirements or credits were added, and all check-sheets for majors across campus were examined
Are there not capstones for all majors?	Capstones are not required for all majors, although there is an option in new CLE minors, but it is not a requirement
Why are only 6 credits required for sciences?	The committee is currently investigating sequences of courses in order to provide depth, rigor, and experiential learning in the sciences
The number of increased required hours cuts into students’ electives options. Why?	Based on various group discussions, students were asking for additional guidance and help with making connections among pieces in their majors
Are sequence courses paired?	This is done automatically in majors/minors, but will pair courses to address specific options
Will new courses be offered?	Some units area already offering some, and others have good courses in place that will continue

Will departments have to go through approvals?	UCCLE is discussing these issues and working on “not adding loads” on faculty time. Emphasis on streamlining the approval process.
How will 4000 level classes deal with prerequisites?	This sort of decision will go through the UCCLC
Can Faculty Senate have the check sheets for all majors?	The check sheets will be sent to Faculty Senate for posting.
How will students see new courses?	These will be more specific on general education, whereas they are “built into” the CLE
Will there be additional resources for the new practices described in the proposal?	UCCLC requests Faculty Senate support for securing these resources. Faculty need aid in securing these resources by letting committee know what is needed.
How will program be assessed?	Committee is currently working on program assessment
How will courses be offered in departments without undergraduate programs (e.g., Entomology)?	Depends on the courses, but successful courses will be retained and could receive funding
Will current minors be affected in those units without undergraduate majors?	Should not be affected
The actual outcomes are often not measurable, and are badly written	The proposal is still in draft form, and the committee is working on it

After the question and answer session, President Hausman thanked the committee and asked for the final document in order for the Faculty Senate to discuss at the September 16, 2014 meeting and provide feedback to the committee.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 5:15 p.m. in Pamplin 32

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.