

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Place: Pamplin 32

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Chair: Bernice Hausman

Minutes: Rebecca Miller

Attending: Monty Abbas, Marwan Al-Haik, Robin Allnutt, Susan Anderson, Nahum Arav, Richard Ashley, Godmar Back, Joseph Baker, Benjamin Corl, Rami Dalloul, Alex Dickow, William Ducker, Flelicia Etzkorn, John Ferris, Rosemary Goss, Ralph Hall, Bernice Hausman, Susan Stinson (for Wat Hopkins), David Jacobsen, Bradley Klein, Chad Lavin, Jenny Lo, Joe Merola, Rebecca Miller, Sean O'Keefe, Sakiko Okumoto, Jim Parkhurst, Mayur Patil, Paulo Polanah, Anita Puckett, Wornie Reed, Susanna Rinehart, Kamal Rojiani, Ahmad Safaai-Jazi, Scott Salom, Thomas Archibald (for Hannah Scherer), Madeline Schreiber, Joe Sirgy, Deborah Smith, David Tegarden, Dan Thorp, Eric Vance, Bruce Vogelaar, Layne Watson, Philip Young

A quorum was met for this meeting.

Guests: None in attendance

Meeting purpose: Regular Faculty Senate meeting

Agenda items: Approval of the agenda

Approval of the minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting

Discussion of Faculty Senate committees and task forces

Discussion of the role of senate representatives on commissions and committees

Board of Visitors Ambassadors

Discussion of the representativeness of Faculty Senate

Update on governance

Update on Stadium Woods

Faculty Senate President Bernice Hausman called the meeting to order at 5:15 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 September 16, 2014 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting was seconded and passed by unanimous decision. President Hausman asked the Secretary to please email Jack Finney with the approved versions of the Faculty Senate minutes in order to be made accessible on the official Faculty Senate website: <http://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/>

Agenda item 3: Discussion of Faculty Senate committees and task forces

In order to operate efficiently and effectively, the Faculty Senate uses committees and task forces to conduct business and support faculty members at Virginia Tech. In particular, discussion surrounded three Faculty Senate committees and two Faculty Senate task forces. More information about committees and working groups is available on the Faculty Senate website: <http://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/>

Review Committee. According to its charge, “the Faculty Review Committee (FRC) will include a minimum of two faculty members from each college and two each from the library and extension faculty. Additional members from colleges may be appointed in direct proportion to the colleges' representation in the Faculty Senate. The president of the Faculty Senate, in consultation with the cabinet, appoints the chair. The chair may be a member of the Faculty Senate or a member of the Faculty Review Committee. Committee members, who are appointed by the Faculty Senate president in consultation with the cabinet, must, at the time of their initial appointment, have served on their college or equivalent promotion and tenure committee or in the Faculty Senate. Members may not serve on a university or college promotion and tenure committee and on the Faculty Review Committee simultaneously. In the event that no eligible faculty members from a particular college or the library or extension can be identified who are willing and able to fill a vacant position on the FRC, the Faculty Senate president in consultation with the cabinet may appoint the appropriate number of tenured faculty members to complete the membership of the FRC.”

Joe Merola currently serves as the Chair of the Review Committee, and he needs to fill the entire committee with appropriate representatives. Senate representatives need to work with their Cabinet representatives in order to identify members for this committee. This is a committee with significant work, and it was noted that the committee did have work last year, but that it did not function effectively.

It was noted that members of the Review Committee need to understand that they will be committing to work over the spring and summer, since this is likely the time period where faculty members will be filing grievances.

Committee on Reconciliation. According to its charge, the Committee on Reconciliation “offers advice and counsel to faculty members who seek it, particularly in relation to disputes with immediate supervisors or university administrators.”

Ken Eriksson (Geosciences) has chaired this committee for a long time, but will need to be replaced soon.

Committee on Faculty Ethics. According to its charge, the Committee on Faculty Ethics “receives and considers charges of violations of faculty ethics that involve the abuse of professional responsibilities as outlined in the principles of ethical behavior.”

Diane Zahm has agreed to continue to chair the Committee on Faculty Ethics, and she is currently involved in checking with previous members of the committee on their ability to continue to serve. Rami Dalloul has the responsibility of following up with Diane in order to make sure that the committee has enough members to do its work.

Governance Task Force. The Governance Task Force is chaired by Wornie Reed. Wornie Reed reported that the committee work is moving forward.

Salary Task Force. The Salary Task Force is chaired by Paulo Polanah. Paulo Polanah reported that the committee work is moving forward, and will have recommendations in the next few weeks. Members on this committee include:

- Eric Vance
- Ralph Hall
- Iuliana Lazar (nominated by President Hausman; her acceptance of the nomination is pending)

Agenda item 4: Discussion of the role of senate representatives on commissions and committees

President Hausman remarked that notes and reports should be posted on the Faculty Senate Scholar site whenever committees and commissions are involved in discussions that pertain to Faculty Senate business and interests. Please contact President Hausman if you need to give a report so that the Cabinet is able to discuss it before Faculty Senate meetings.

The Cabinet has identified four key commissions with which the Faculty Senate will be working more directly:

- Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA)
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies (CUSP)
- Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies (CGSP)
- Commission on Research (COR)

Representatives from the following committees, commissions, and councils offered brief updates. In-depth reports from these representatives should be posted in the Faculty Senate Scholar site:

- Strategic Budgeting & Planning Advisory Council (Susanna Rinehart)
- Commission on Research (Bruce Vogelaar)
- Staff Senate (Monty Abbas)
- Commission on Graduate Studies & Policies (Scott Salom)
- Employee Benefits Committee (Godmar Back)
- University Library Committee (Godmar Back)

- Commission on Faculty Affairs (Rami Dalloul)
- Commission on Student Affairs (Susan Anderson)
- Dean's Advisory Council for University Libraries (Ralph Hall)
- Commission on Equal Opportunity & Diversity (Anita Puckett, on behalf of Bradley Klein)
- Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (Eric Vance and Monty Abbas)
- Commission on Undergraduate Studies & Policies (Alex Dickow)

Following these brief reports and updates, President Hausman demonstrated the Forum section of the Faculty Senate Scholar site, which is the appropriate location for sharing commission and committee news. In the future, there may not be time designated for these sorts of reports, so senators are encouraged to check the Forum. The Cabinet will continue to discuss the issue of how reports and updates from committees and commissions should be shared and discussed.

General communication was also discussed. It was suggested that we may want to work with news outlets, such as the *Roanoke Times*, the *Collegiate Times*, and the *VT Daily News* in order to share resolutions from the Faculty Senate.

Agenda item 5: Board of Visitors Ambassadors

President Hausman, in discussion with previous Faculty Senate Presidents, reported that the Cabinet would like to assign faculty senators to attend the open committee meetings that take place during the Monday morning time slot of each of the Board of Visitors quarterly meetings. The Cabinet decided that increased participation from faculty at these meetings would be a powerful message to send to the administration. Furthermore, there are a number of issues going forward that need Faculty Senate engagement, such as items being discussed in the Finance & Audit Committee and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The next Board of Visitors meetings will take place in November, March, and June: <http://www.bov.vt.edu/meetings/meetings.html>. Please email President Hausman if you are interested in serving as a Board of Visitors Ambassador.

Agenda item 6: Discussion of the representativeness of Faculty Senate

President Hausman recommended that the Faculty Senate continue to discuss how well the Faculty Senate may or may not represent the full spectrum of Virginia Tech faculty members. After looking at various data, President Hausman concluded that there are likely at least 300 faculty not represented by Faculty Senate.

The Faculty Senate will continue to discuss this question, and will ultimately make recommendations for how to make the Senate more representative. It was also suggested that we create a profile of the Faculty Senate by collecting demographics about current Faculty Senate members, such as: gender, nationality, race, and motivation.

Agenda item 7: Update on governance

President Hausman indicated that additional information about our governance discussion is available in the Governance folder on the Faculty Senate Scholar site. The folder includes:

- An Executive Development Institute case study on governance that has circulated around Virginia Tech administration
- A document written by President Hausman's GA that summarizes the governance practices of Virginia Tech's SCHEV-approved peers.
- A document from the University of California at Berkeley that emphasizes the faculty centered nature of UCB's governance

President Hausman inquired about the relationship of College faculty associations, and asked senators to go back to College faculty associations and give presentations on the changes in governance that the Faculty Senate is trying to promote.

In general, the "big question" is whether or not the current structure allows us to make an "inline role" in governance, or if we really need to make a proposal to change the governance structure at Virginia Tech. There seems to be a general sense that we need to become a functional voice before we can push for a more direct role in the governance structure. We need to get engaged (the short view) and think about having a proposal by spring to put forward to University Council about the governance structure (long view). Specifically, we need to be selective and substantive on what we decide to comment on through the current governance system. If any senators have specific issues, comments, or questions, President Hausman encouraged that senators send these through Cabinet representatives.

Agenda item 8: Update on Stadium Woods

There will likely be a resolution that uses the language that the Faculty Senate does not support any development on the Stadium Woods location. President Hausman and the Cabinet determined that this is not an issue on which the Faculty Senate needs to spend much more time on.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 5:15 p.m. in Pamplin 32

Note: The next meeting scheduled was for Oct. 14, 2014, but this meeting was canceled.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.