Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2023 @ 2:30pm
Torgersen 1050 or Via Zoom

Check-In:

Present: Joe Merola (presiding), Montasir Abbas, Luke Achenie, Biko Agozino, Diane Agud, Barbara Allen (alternate for James Hawdon), Richard Ashley, Paul Avey, Azziza Bankole, Scott Case, Guopeng Cheng, Joshua Clemons, Carolyn Commer, Nick Copeland, Kristy Daniels, Ashley Dayer, Jonathan Everett, Stuart Feigenbaum, Carla Finkielstein, Zhuo Fu, Rebecca Funk, Rodney Gaines, Wesley Gwaltney, David Hicks, Daniel Hindman, Mantu Hudait, Scott Huxtable, Bryan Katz (alternate for vacancy in CEE), Alex Kinnaman, Leigh Anne Krometis, Andrea L'Afflitto (alternate for Ran Jin), Catherine Larochelle, Evan Lavender-Smith, Renee LeClair, Justin Lemkul, Gary Long, Charles Lowery, Jason Malone, Eric Martin, Virginia Maxwell, Michelle Maycock, Ali Mehrizi-Sani, Rachel Miles, Zhange Ni, Greg Novack, Thomas O'Donnell, Yuchin Pan, Robin Panneton, Nicole Pitterson, Steven Rideout, Susanna Rinehart, Nino Ripepi, Nicholas Robbins, Nazila Roofigari-Esfahan, Adrian Sandu, Charles Schleupner, Karen Schnatterly, Richard Shryock, Charles Smith, Stephanie Smith, Keith Stephenson, Laura Strawn, Saied Taheri, Jay Teets, Jim Tokuhisa, Kwokleung Tsui, Bimal Viswanath, Jeffrey Walling, Jerald Walz, Robert Weiss, Rose Wesche, Ashley Wilkinson, Erin 'Nikki' Worthington, Randolph Wynne, Diane Zahm, Lizette Zietsman

Guests: Lori Buchanan, Ellen Plummer, Demetria Somervell

Absent with Notice: Angelica Witcher, Yan Xu

Absent: Jonathan Auguste, Mark Coggins, Scott Gartner, Bill Green, David Gregory, Rebecca Hester, Joseph Hughes, Casey Jim, Young-Teck Kim, G.Q. Lu, Caitlin Martinkus, Luca Massa, Gonzalo Montero Yavar, David Moore, Sean O'Keefe, Hans Robinson, Cori Ruktanonchai, Eric Stanley, Shane Wang, David Xie

Call to Order by the President Joe Merola at 2:30

Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Joe Merola)
- Consent agenda was adopted:

- Minutes for 4-21-2023 ([Link](#))
- Agenda for 8-25-2023 ([Link](#))

Business Agenda

Old Business

1. Updates & Announcements
   a. Faculty Senate President Joe Merola welcomed the senators and introduced Evan Lavender-Smith, Vice-President, and Rachel Miles, Operations Officer. Robert Weiss will serve as Immediate Past President and Justin Lemkul will serve as Chair of the Commission on Faculty Affairs.
   b. The Virginia Tech Board of Visitors (BOV) meeting will be held August 27–29, 2023. All constituent groups recognized by the university's system of shared governance—such as faculty, A/P faculty, staff, graduate and professional students, and undergraduate students—have representatives on the BOV. The faculty representative to the BOV is the Faculty Senate President. Board materials are available for review on the BOV website. Meetings are open to the public, and the Information Session and Full Board meeting can be viewed via livestream.

New Business

2. Joe Merola introduced Faculty Senate Cabinet selection. The Faculty Senate Cabinet includes a representative from each college. Details about the Faculty Senate Cabinet, including membership and functions, can be found in the Faculty Senate Constitution, Article VI.
   a. Senators from each college met in breakout sessions to select representative for the Faculty Senate Cabinet. Individual colleges were also able to identify nominees for University Council.
   b. The following representatives were selected and agreed to serve on Faculty Senate Cabinet.
      - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Jerald Walz
      - College of Liberal Arts and Human Services: Diane Zahm
      - College of Engineering: Monty Abbas
      - College of Science: Diane Agud
      - College of Natural Resources and Environment: Randy Wynne
      - College of Veterinary Medicine: Becky Funk
      - Pamplin College of Business: Jason Malone
      - University Libraries: Alex Kinnaman
      - Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine: Renee LeClair

- A representative for the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design is pending.
3. Elections were conducted for members of university committees, commissions and University Council.
    a. Election results for University Committee members:
        - Campus Development Committee
            - Harold McKenzie (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
            - Victoria (Vicki) Soghomonian (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
        - Climate Action, Sustainability, and Energy Committee
            - Joshua Clemons (73 Yes, 0 Abstain)
        - Employee Benefits Committee
            - Rick Ashley (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
            - Rodney Gaines (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
        - Transportation and Parking Committee
            - Diane Agud (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
    b. Election results for University Commission members:
        - Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity
            - Charlie Schleupner (72 Yes, 2 Abstain)
        - Commission on Faculty Affairs
            - Robin Panneton (73 Yes, 1 Abstain)
        - Commission on Graduate and Professional Student Affairs
            - Alex Kinnaman (72 Yes, 1 Abstain)
        - Commission on Outreach and International Affairs
            - Charles Lowery (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
        - Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs
            - Mantu Hudait (73 Yes, 0 Abstain, 1 Other)
        - Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies
            - Jim Tokuhisa (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
    c. Elections results for University Council members:
        - CALS: Rodney Gaines (60 Yes, 3 Abstain, 0 No)
        - COE: Nicole Pitterson (74 Yes, 0 Abstain)
        - COS: Gary Long (73 Yes, 0 Abstain)
        - Pamplin College of Business: Stuart Feigenbaum (73 Yes, 1 Abstain)
        - VTCSOM: Renee LeClair (72 Yes, 2 Abstain)
        - Elections for remaining academic colleges are pending.
    d. Some committees and commissions did not receive nominees. The meeting dates and times for these will be distributed and elections will be held at a later date.

4. Joe Merola presented two draft administrative policies, Policy 7035: Privacy Policy for Employees' Electronic Communications, and Policy 7010: Policy for Securing Technology Resources and Services. These were brought forward at the end of the Spring semester following the final Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year.
    a. Discussion was held around the specific technology that the policies represent, the roll-out process for the technology, and communication. Additional discussion was held about the use of personal devices for university business, FOIA requirements, considerations as a state employee, and privacy.
    b. It was noted that the policies are considered administrative, originate from a nonacademic unit, and will not go through the shared governance process.
    c. Comments were made regarding the following topics: request of time for the Faculty Senate to review the policies and provide feedback; suggestion of conducting an analysis of the technology to include benefit and concerns; consideration that the policy is administrative but intersects with academic concerns. When the Faculty Senate was presented information previously, these policies had not yet been written; the need for additional information was mentioned.

Open Floor Discussion

5. Joe Merola will provide a constituency report to the Board of Visitors during the upcoming meeting and requested topics of interest to faculty that could be included. Topic suggestions follow:
    a. Concerns regarding AI, including the discussion held around Policies 7035 and 7010.
    b. Over the past two years, the administration has considered many items to be administrative that many feel should go through shared governance. A goal of identifying what is part of shared governance and what is not was suggested.
    c. The current situation at West Virginia University was mentioned, along with the role that the faculty can play in providing foundational information for proposals, expansions, and changes.

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 4:19 p.m.