

Peggy Moch
President

Mike Holt
**Vice President/
President Elect**

Sudip Chakraborty
Secretary

Sean Lennon
Parliamentarian

Michael Noll
Past President

Agenda
February 18, 2016, 3:30 pm
University Center Magnolia Room

Items in **bold print** are items that require action by the Faculty Senate. Other items are for information only.

Special Request: At the request of the Senate's Executive Committee, any actions sent to the President for possible inclusion in the Senate agenda should be accompanied by a written document with the rationale and purpose of the decision. The Executive Committee requests that these documents be submitted via email as Word.doc attachments.

For the benefit of record keeping, we ask that senators and visitors please identify themselves when speaking to an issue during the meeting. Please use the microphones to assist with accurate recording. All senators must sign the roster in order to be counted present. If you have a senator's proxy, please place their name tag beside your name tag on the table in front of you.

1. Call to Order – Peggy Moch
 - a. Senate voting procedures
 - b. Chancellor's visit 1/27/2016
 - c. Gun carry Bill 859
 - d. Faculty Evaluations of Administrators will be emailed out on 2/5/2016 and should be completed by noon on 2/26/2016
 - e. Election of new Vice President/President Elect for 2016-2017 – nominations are to be made at the March 2016 meeting and the election will be held at the April 2016 meeting per the FS Bylaws
 - f. All statutory and standing committee 2015-2016 end of year reports are due to FS President no later than April 30, 2016.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting of the Faculty Senate.** <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php> (See link here for minutes for all faculty senate meetings).
3. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Sudip Chakraborty.

Note: Please send an email to Sudip Chakraborty (schakraborty@valdosta.edu) regarding proxies a minimum of one (1) week prior to the scheduled Faculty Senate meeting or as soon as possible if an unexpected absence needs to occur.

4. Interim VSU President, Dr. Cecil Staton: VSU Updates
5. SGA President, David L. Burdette: Academic Forgiveness Bill (Attachment A – remand to Educational Policies); ROTC Bill (Attachment B – remand to Educational Policies); Student Health Center (Attachment C – remand to Institutional Planning)
6. Old & Unfinished Business
 - a. Statutory Committee Reports
 - i. **Academic Committee – Sheri Gravett; Report located at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>**
 - ii. Committee on Committees – Kalina Winska: Progress on assignments?
 - iii. Faculty Affairs – Alicja Rieger: Progress on assignments?
 - iv. Faculty Grievance Committee – Vacant: Any report?
 - v. Institutional Planning Committee – Donald Thieme: Any report?
 - b. Meeting minutes from the various committees should be sent to FS Secretary (Sudip Chakraborty (schakraborty@valdosta.edu)) to be uploaded to the Faculty Senate website **AND** to the library (archives@valdosta.edu) with “Archives Faculty Senate Papers” in the subject line. Minutes from 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 meetings from the various committees should be sent so these documents can be archived properly. Please label minutes documents as shown in the following examples:
 - i. Technology_Minutes_04-29-2015
 - ii. Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2015Thank you for your assistance in getting our records keeping up to date. ☺
 - c. Work is continuing on the updating of the VSU Statutes. The proposed statutes are under review by the Vice Presidents and the University Attorney.
7. New Business
 - a. Standing Committee Reports: No reports received
 - i. Academic Scheduling & Procedures – Katharine Lamb
 - ii. Academic Honors & Scholarships – Michael Meacham
 - iii. Athletic Committee – Peggy Moch
 - iv. Environmental Issues – Arsalan Wares
 - v. Educational Policies – Jacob M. Jewusiak
 - vi. Faculty Scholarship – Maura Schlairet – Received Bylaws
 - vii. Library Affairs – Michael Forbes Ocasio
 - viii. Internationalization and Globalization Committee – Fleming Bell
 - ix. Diversity and Equity – Karen Acosta
 - x. Student Affairs – Kelly Davidson Devall
 - xi. Technology Committee – Mike Holt
 - b. Faculty Course Reassigned Time Request Policy: See Attachment D – remand Faculty Affairs.
 - c. Request to post Faculty Senate Committee documents online: See Attachment E – remand Faculty Senate Secretary.
 - d. Concerns about the new graduation procedure from a student: See attachment F – Remand Institutional Planning

8. General Discussion

- a. Could the senate meeting schedule be amended so that the May meeting was simply an online compilation of end of the year reports from each statutory and standing committee submitted to the FS President by the end of April?
- b. A great deal of work needs to be done on the FS bylaws to make them more reflective of practice and to make procedures such as voting or the PBC faculty member more transparent, and not relegated to someone's institutional memory or lack thereof in any given situation.

9. Adjournment

Attachment A:

Student Government Association Resolution

Bill #14-12
Academic Forgiveness Bill

Date: November 10, 2014
Revised: January 20, 2015

Authored by: Senator Matthew Cowan, Senator Christopher Hellams
Sponsored by: Senator Anyanwu, Cato, Poe,

Be it enacted by the Senate of Valdosta State University (VSU) here assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the calculation of a current or future student's grade point average toward a degree be calculated by replacing a lower course grade completed by the higher attempted course grade on the student academic record,

WHEREAS, this policy will replace the current policy where an average of the course' attempted hours total the new grade after a class is retaken at Valdosta State University.

WHEREAS, the suggested policy will allow for the term GPA and overall attempted GPA hours to coincide and reflect only courses taken and courses that were retaken with the highest grade replacing the lowest grade, Also policy will only show an Institutional GPA that will be separate from a student's actual transfer GPA recorded by other institutions,

WHEREAS, this will ensure that hours are represented accurately and recorded representative of the hours that were calculated from the student's highest attempt after retaking a course. The final GPA will then reflect the highest Institutional GPA at Valdosta State University which will not be included towards a student's transfer GPA, calculated GPA used by state and federal laws for financial aid purposes, and only allow for courses that are retaken that have received a grade of D or lower on the traditional grading scale,

WHEREAS, implementation of this new policy may improve the enrollment and retention rates of Valdosta State University,

WHEREAS, upon enactment of this bill any current student and future student will be allowed to retake a class and have only the highest course grade reflected in the GPA,

WHEREAS, this policy will only be allowed for up to 5 replacements per student,

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association Senators have collected signatures of students in favor of this policy change,

THEREFORE be it enacted, the Student Government Association recommends to the VSU Faculty Senate and the University Administration that the current academic grading system, for a student who is enrolled at Valdosta State University, be replaced by the suggested grading scale. Also let this show that the attached petitions reflect the consent of students currently attending Valdosta State University who agree that the current grading system be replaced by the policy mentioned above.

FINALLY, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the highest grade of a taken course is the only grade reflected on any current or future student's Grade Point Average.

Attachment B:

Student Government Association Resolution

RESOLUTION # 15-14
PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS DET. 172
STUDENTS

Date: November 2, 2015

Authored by: Senator Pollack, Vice President Kavanaugh, President Burdette

Sponsored by: Senator Holloway

Be it enacted by the Senate of Valdosta State University (VSU) here assembled, that:

WHEREAS, Valdosta State University is deemed a “military-friendly” university, and is centrally located near Moody Air Force Base, where courses are offered on base, and

WHEREAS, VSU offers an aerospace program towards officer training in the United States Air Force (USAF), as a part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, and

WHEREAS, SGA has been contacted by several cadets and officers in ROTC Detachment 172 to assist in giving priority registration to the cadets and participants in the program, and

WHEREAS, the ROTC program is composed of over one-hundred (100) cadets and participants each year, and is a part of three (3) detachments in the state of Georgia and one (1) of one hundred-forty-eight (148) detachments nationwide, and

WHEREAS, specific parts of their program are mandated by the USAF, such as physical training (PT), and such qualifications are required for course instruction, such as a Master’s Degree, and

WHEREAS, this has posed a problem for some cadets and participants to register for core curriculum courses, or courses not required for the ROTC program, but courses required for graduation from this institution, and

WHEREAS, priority registration is often called “Early Registration,” which is given out to certain groups or departments on campus, and due to mandatory ROTC coursework, will allow cadets and participants to organize and plan out courses before registration is available to the majority of the student body, and

WHEREAS, in accordance to the Student Government Association Action Plan, this has exposed Senators to additional student feedback and the need for improvement, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon passage by the Student Government Association of Valdosta State University, this resolution will carry the support of the student body of Valdosta State University, and

FINALLY, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Student Government Association recommends to the Faculty Senate and Registrar to allow ROTC Detachment 172 cadets and participants to register early for courses.

Attachment C:

Student Government Association Resolution

**RESOLUTION # 15-15
USE OF A CALL SERVICE TO ELIMINATE SATURDAY HOURS -
STUDENT HEALTH CENTER**

Date: November 16, 2015

Authored by: Senator Krumbacher

Sponsored by: Senator Pollack

Be it enacted by the Senate of Valdosta State University (VSU) here assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the Student Health Center at Valdosta State University is currently open on Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm, Friday 8am-2:30pm and Saturday 10am-2pm, and

WHEREAS, the Saturday hours cost the Student Health Center, which is funded through the students' tuition, between \$486 and \$671 every week, and

WHEREAS, the Student Health Center at Valdosta State University currently has no call service or emergency contact for after hours health issues or accidents, and students would have to go to South Georgia Medical Center or another health provider nearby, and

WHEREAS, the purchase of a call service, in return of closing the Student Health Center on Saturday, would result in significantly lower costs, and

WHEREAS, a call service would offer a number to call 24 hours a day , 7 days a week, and speak to a health care provider, and

WHEREAS, the Saturday operating hours were implemented in 2010, when the demand was as high as an average of 11 students using the Health Center on Saturday, but recently, the demand has been declining over the past five (5) years to an average of three (3) students on Saturdays, and

WHEREAS, according to the data, having a call service would better help the students' health needs by providing manageable service in a timely fashion, as well as it would significantly lower costs, and

WHEREAS, in order to better access this call service, especially in an emergency, the University Police Department (UPD) number will be printed on the backside of the VSU IDs (1Card) and the UPD will be able forward the call to the call service, and

WHEREAS, in accordance to the Student Government Association Action Plan, this has exposed Senators to additional student feedback and the need for improvement, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon passage by the Student Government Association of Valdosta State University, this resolution will carry the support of the student body of Valdosta State University, and

FINALLY, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Student Government Association recommends to the Student Health Center that the Saturday hours be canceled and a call service be purchased.

Attachment D:

Faculty Course Reassigned Time Request Policy and Process

Tenured and tenure track faculty who undertake certain extraordinary service related to the academic mission of the University may be eligible for a reduction in their regular teaching load during their term of service. Roles that may qualify for service-related course reassignment include, but are not limited to, the following: Department Head, Program Directors, or faculty assigned other extraordinary service commitments in line with the University's mission and values. Roles that may not qualify for service-related course release include, but are not limited to, the following: work done as part of normal faculty workload (teaching, scholarship, and service activities—including committee membership, directing conferences, editing journals, providing leadership in professional organizations, or holding paid consultantships (unless an outside agency provides funding to the Institution for the reassigned time).

All faculty seeking reassigned time from their normal teaching obligation must complete the Faculty Course Reassigned-Time Request Form (FCRR) prior to any reduction in course load. The individual faculty member is responsible for initiating and completing the FCRR at least a semester before the reassignment is requested. (If the reassignment is conditioned upon external funding, submit the FRR concurrently with the submission of the funding request.) The faculty member should submit a completed FCRR to the Department Chair/Center Director/Program Supervisor for review. If approved, the FCRR progresses next to the Dean, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and President for their review and approval. At each level, the amount of service required for the role will be taken into consideration as well as equity concerns across the Institution.

The form must be completed and fully approved prior to the start of any requested reassigned time, and before the BANNER Schedule is submitted to the Registrar's Office (normally early August for following spring semester and early January for fall semester.). No reassigned time will be granted unless, and until, the Faculty Course Reassigned Time Request Form (FCRR) is fully approved by the President through the appropriate channels (via Head/Director, Dean, and Provost). These guidelines do not apply to staff members.

Faculty who receive reassigned time from their regular teaching load should recognize that they are expected to fulfill their departmental and College service obligations. The University, the Provost, or operating unit, may discontinue, temporarily suspend, or alter a Reassigned Time approval of any faculty member based on institutional needs. This decision is not subject to the grievance procedure or grievance policies.

For applicable forms or questions please contact the Valdosta State University Office of Academic Affairs.

**FACULTY COURSE REASSIGNED TIME REQUEST (FCRR)
FORM**

Date: _____ Department: _____

Faculty Name: _____ Rank: _____

Semester (for reassignment): ____ Fall ____ Spring Year: _____

of Credit Hours to be Reassigned: _____

Is Extra Compensation also being provided for this activity?: ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, Amount \$ _____ Source: _____

Describe purpose of reassignment from normal teaching load: _____

Specific Outcomes Expected:

Method of Evaluation and Report Due Date:

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Director/Department Head

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Dean

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
President

NOTE: The form must be completed and fully approved prior to the start of any requested time, and before the Master Schedule is due to the Registrar's Office (normally early August for the following Spring Semester and early January for Fall Semester).

Attachment E:

To: President Moch

From: linda pysher jurczak

Date: January 27, 2016

Re: Item for the February Senate Agenda

I respectfully request that the Faculty Senate webpage include documentation from all committee meetings.

It would be beneficial, and enhance the notion of transparency, if the Faculty Senate webpage included the minutes from all committee meetings held during the course of the year. As a body, we have no idea who is actually attending committee meetings and making decisions at that level. This is important because we should be able to see who is actually doing the work in committees, and it also ensures input from a variety of perspectives.

Attachment F:

Subject: Graduation Changes from a Disappointed Student

To whom it may concern,

I have attended Valdosta State University since my first semester as a freshman, I have stayed true to Valdosta State since day one and have accepted the many changes that have happened in the past years but the new commencement changes for Spring 2016 are unacceptable. I think as a graduating student, along with many others who have dedicated our time and resources to this university we should have a majority say on how commencement will go. If changes need to be done, it needs to be addressed to the entire graduating student body. If the current changes stay intact, the best day of my life thus far will become the most difficult and stressful day of being a Blazer. The last bit of Blazer spirit I have will be diminished when I have to spend almost 8 hours tending to graduation activities with thousands of others rather than the divided colleges before. If this takes place outside the possibility of rain in the month of May amidst the wet season of South Georgia is very likely and if all the colleges walk together there will now be limited seating inside the PE Complex unlike before. Something that makes Valdosta State University so great is that it is unique and fosters that in more ways than one, including our commencement ceremony.

On behalf of other students similar to me, I, like many others, have divorced parents both traveling from over 4 hours away, If the convocation and actual graduation are divided, I will have to "divide" my time between my two beloved parents. One of my parents will have to be alone while I tend to another and not to mention they will now have to book two nights for a hotel rather than one. Also, my 88 year old frail grandma will have to miss one of the events related to graduation because she cannot sit for so long, like many other elderly people.

I would also like to bring to your attention if fireworks are involved in the ceremony there is increased liability to VSU and it's attendees of the event. People who are affected by PTSD and other similar ailments will have to leave the ceremony. Also, firework debris will come down on the people attending and the burning embers from fireworks could lead to possibly injury and damage to property. Embers from fireworks cause thousands of roof leaks a year by burning the rubber of flat roofs. So, keep this in mind as well.

This is the day we have worked hardest for in our lives and the changes being made is tarnishing the bright image of Valdosta State University.

Thank you for your time,

Name Removed
Disappointed student