



FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Chairperson
Ronald M. Zaccari

Vice Chairperson
Louis Levy

Executive Secretary
Mike Meacham

Parliamentarian
John Samaras

Minutes of November 17, 2005

[{Members and visitors present}](#)

The Valdosta State University Faculty Senate meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. in the Odum Library Auditorium.

R. Zaccari called the meeting to order and informed the Faculty Senate of the following:

- ◆ Michael Harbin, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts, recently passed away. Mr. Harbin was a dedicated professor with a great deal of creative energy. He will be greatly missed by the VSU community.
- ◆ The Fall 2005 Enrollment Update, prepared by Strategic Research and Analysis, was distributed to the Faculty Senators. VSU's enrollment for Fall 2005 was 10,503 which is a 1% increase over last year. Forty-one percent of all first-time freshmen are from the Metro Atlanta area. Thirty-three percent of first-time freshmen come from within VSU's 41 county service region. Six percent of VSU students are from out of state representing 43 states and 1 U.S. Territory. International Programs reported that there are 249 students representing over 60 countries, which is a 12% increase over last year. The Graduate School enrollment has increased nearly 2%. Since Fall 2000, enrollment at VSU has grown approximately 20%. Fall 2005 numbers indicate that enrollment at all 34 USG institutions increased 1.2%. A significant portion of the University System of Georgia's new students are first-time freshmen. VSU's Master Plan was prepared based on a 4% annual growth in the student population. Vice Chancellor for Facilities Linda Daniels will be on campus December 6 to tour the campus, review current planning, and determine if future adjustments need to be made to the 2004 accepted Master Plan.
- ◆ During Spring 2005 VSU participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement. Since the year 2000 there have been 900,000 undergraduate students from 1,000 colleges and universities to complete this national survey. Overall, in 2005 there were 237,000 randomly selected first-year and senior students representing 528 4-year institutions from across the United States. There were 261 freshmen and 217 seniors at VSU who responded to the survey. The five clusters of the National Survey of Student Engagement are 1) Level of Academic Challenge Items 2) Active and Collaborative Learning Items 3) Student-Faculty Interaction Items 4) Enriching Educational Experiences Items, and 5) Supportive Campus Environment Items. The presentation by R. Zaccari, which contains charts with comparative data, may be viewed at the following

link:<http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/facsen/Minutes/NSSESenatePresentation05117.ppt> In the first several cluster charts, VSU is compared with the University System of Georgia, other institutions that also have the same Master's Institution Carnegie Classification as VSU, and the total NSSE survey respondents in 2005. VSU fared well against other institutions within the University System of Georgia. The last five cluster charts in the presentation compare VSU with the top 50% and top 10% of the 528 institutions that participated in the 2005 NSSE survey. VSU plans to participate in the Spring 2006 NSSE survey.

- ◆ R. Zaccari asked L. Levy to discuss the VSU Graduation and Retention Improvement Plan. L. Levy thanked Walter Peacock, Director of Admissions, and the Enrollment Management Committee for their work on retention, progression and graduation. He informed the Senate that Vice Chancellor Dan Papp recently made a very detailed presentation of USG's work at the system level on the topics of retention and graduation. Dr. Papp also presented a budget formula which will take into account retention and graduation rates and how student success is going to be reflected in the funding for VSU. Increasing admission standards and working with students to ensure their success are just a couple of ways that VSU plans to improve retention and graduation. During the last five years, retention rates at VSU have increased from 70% to 75%. VSU's six-year graduation rate has increased from 30% to 38%. Data suggest that the OASIS freshmen year experience and leadership programs have helped VSU retain students. VSU plans to focus on three important clusters: 1) strive to improve advising and intervention strategies 2) expand the freshmen year experience to those students who have decided on a major, and 3) create a student success center that would allow programs to be administered in one place, possibly a residence hall, during hours that would be mostly appropriate for students. VSU plans to increase its retention rate 1% per year so that by the year 2015 we are retaining 85% of first-time full-time students. Additionally, VSU plans to increase its six-year graduation rate so that by the year 2015 our graduation rate is at 45%.

R. Zaccari turned the meeting over to M. Meacham. M. Meacham read the list of proxies.

2. Approval of the [minutes of the October 20, 2005](#) meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The minutes were approved with a friendly amendment to line 5, bullet "c" of the VSU Statutes, Article I, Chapter 4, Section 3 to read as follows: ...supervisor, the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, in a letter from the.... The same change was also made in Attachment 1.

3. New business

- a. Report from the Academic Committee – Louis Levy

No report.

- b. Report from the Committee on Committees – Elaine Yontz ([Attachment 1](#))

- c. Report from the Institutional Planning Committee

No report.

d. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee

No report.

e. Report from the Faculty Grievance Committee – Stephen Lahr

No report.

f. Report from the Senate Executive Secretary – Mike Meacham

- ◆ Request to investigate the university plagiarism policy to find a means to check if a student has a prior offense was remanded to the Educational Policies Committee (Richard Lee).
- ◆ Request from the Educational Policies Committee to remove the phrase “No change in a student’s major program may be made during registration” from the Change in Major Program section of the undergraduate catalog. (Note: In the 2005-2006 undergraduate catalog this phrase may be found on page 79.) A motion was made and seconded to remove the statement as requested by the Educational Policies Committee. The motion was approved.

This recommendation was approved by the Faculty Senate and signed by Faculty Senate Executive Secretary Mike Meacham and President Ronald M. Zaccari on November 17, 2005.

- ◆ Request to consider charging E-rate to Distance Learning students was remanded to the Technology Committee.
- ◆ Nominating Committee (Shirley Andrews, Michael Noll, Cindy Tori) – A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominees as presented by M. Meacham. The motion was approved.

4. Old Business

- ◆ J. Bowland, on behalf of the Minority and Diversity Issues Committee, proposed that the term “handicap” be changed to “persons with disability” in all official VSU documents. R. Zaccari informed the Senate that, if approved, the recommendation would be forwarded to the Office of Legal Affairs. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal as presented by the Minority and Diversity Affairs Committee. The motion was approved.

This recommendation was approved by the Faculty Senate and signed by Faculty Senate Executive Secretary Mike Meacham and President Ronald M. Zaccari on November 17, 2005.

5. General Discussion

- ◆ M. Davey inquired about the status of VSU’s proposed change to a research intensive institution. R. Zaccari stated that VSU is one of four USG institutions invited to explore the potential to reach this particular designation. The other three USG

institutions are Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University, and the University of West Georgia. VSU will need to receive approval of several additional doctoral programs prior to changing its Carnegie classification. Currently VSU has formally requested adding the Doctorate in Public Administration (DPA). The Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) is under campus review and the proposal is being prepared by appropriate academic departments and offices. Presently, we are uncertain how long it will take to achieve this goal.

- ◆ L. Bell asked how long it might take for an issue that is presented to the Executive Committee to be brought before the Senate. She would like to present an item concerning non-credit courses. M. Meacham requested that L. Bell send the item to him prior to the next Executive Committee meeting, which is scheduled for February 2, 2006.
- ◆ M. Noll, on behalf of the Ad-hoc Committee on Commencement, proposed that a permanent (rather than ad-hoc) graduation committee be formed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal as presented. The motion was approved.

This recommendation was approved by the Faculty Senate and signed by Faculty Senate Executive Secretary Mike Meacham and President Ronald M. Zaccari on November 17, 2005.

- ◆ M. Noll informed the Senate that the results of the Survey on Communication and Communication Structures at VSU are being analyzed and a final report should be completed in January, 2006. He hopes to present the results at the February 2006 Faculty Senate meeting.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Attachment 1

**Faculty Senate Committee on Committees (CoCo)
Report to the Faculty Senate
November 17, 2005**

CoCo Members for 2005/06:

Lyle Indergaard (COA); Jay Rickman (A&S); Cindy Tori (COB); Shirley Andrews (COE); Lynn Bell (CON); Elaine Yontz, chair (Odum/DSW)

Activities since October 1, 2005:

Committee has begun review and reconsideration of Standing Committees. 2204/05 committee reports have been reviewed and consultations begun with chairs and former chairs of dormant committees.

We are working on revised procedures for committee reporting.

Chair and chair-elect are working on election of a member to Grievance Committee and on letters to Deans about Faculty Senate elections.

Members and Visitors present:

R.M. Zaccari, President
L. Levy, Vice President, Academic Affairs
M. Meacham, Executive Secretary
J. Samaras, Parliamentarian

*Indicates the individual assigned a proxy

Ex-Officio Senators:

B. Adler *R. Allen
N. Argyle J. Black
*L. Calendrillo J. Gaston
G. Gaumond M. Giddings
P. Gunter (absent) *A. Hufft
K. Keppler (absent) *S. Sikes

College of the Arts:

*F. Barnas J. Bowland
C. Brague J. Brashier
L. Indergaard S. Lahr
E. Nielsen M. Schmidt

College Of Arts and Sciences:

R. Amesbury *A. Aronson-Friedman *C. Barnbaum B. Bergstrom
D. Boyd R. Carter M. Davey W. Huang
C. James J. LaPlant A. Lazari (absent) G. Macheski
P. Moch (absent) M. Noll C. Peguesse (absent) E. Pugh
J. Rickman J. Samaras C. Tillman (absent) J. Wang
J. Whitehead M. Williams

College Of Business Administration:

B. Caster L. Marshall J. Muncy *C. Tori
*F. Ware

College of Education:

*S. Andrews C. Barnett D. Briihl M. Fenster
K. Hinkle C. Hudson *J. Hummel *D. Leech
Y. Mat Som K. McCurdy L. Minor K. Ott
N. Scheetz *L. Schmertzinger *R. Schmertzinger J. Stelzer

College Of Nursing

L. Bell L. Floyd

Division Of Social Work:

M. Meacham

Odum Library:

A. Price E. Yontz

Proxies:

Brian Adler for Don Leech
Deb Briihl for John Hummel
Jim Muncy for Cindy Tori
Bruce Caster for Fred Ware
George Gaumond for Ralph Allen
Lynn Bell for Anita Hufft
Mark Fenster for Shirley Andrews
Steve Lahr for Frank Barnas
James LaPlant for Linda Calendrillo
Louis Levy for Scott Sikes
Lynn Minor for Lorraine Schmertzinger

Michael Noll for Cecilia Barnbaum
Jane Whitehead for Amy Aronson-Friedman
Jiri Stelzer for Richard Schmertzing

Student Government Association (non-voting)
President of the SGA: Keith Flemming (absent)

Visitors:

Bobby Flowers, Council on Staff Affairs
Christy Coons-Yates, Organizational Development and Strategic Planning
Kate Gurley, Organizational Development and Strategic Planning
Marsha Krotseng, Strategic Research and Analysis
Chuck Hudson, Registrar
Joe Newton, Information Technology