



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

est. 1991

Chairman President H. C. Bailey	Vice Chairman Vice President L. Benjamin	Executive Secretary Dr. D. Boyd	Parliamentarian Dr. R. Hull
------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Minutes of November 18, 1999

The Valdosta State University Faculty Senate meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. in Powell Hall Auditorium. Members present were: President and Chair - Hugh C. Bailey; Vice President, Academic Affairs - L. Benjamin (absent); Executive Secretary - D. Boyd; Parliamentarian - R. Hull ; Ex-officio Senators - J. Brignati (absent), K. Ferrell (absent), L. Milbrandt, T. Dasher (absent), K. Stanley (absent), F.D. Toth (absent), M.A. Reichenbach (absent), E. Clark, G. Gaumond, P. Cleveland (absent); College of the Arts: V. Pennington, T. Harding (proxy D. Farwell), D. Farwell, J. Wheeler; College of Arts and Sciences: S. Goel, J. Hiers, D. Bogyo, L. Hanes, S. Seyfarth, A. Lazari (absent), B. Bergstrom, D. Boyd, B. Brown (proxy J. Hiers), J. Elza, B. Evans (absent), T. Meyers (absent), V. Soady, B. Adler (absent), H. Harper, S. Seyfarth; College of Business Administration: A. Reddy (absent), F. Ware (proxy M. Holland), M. Holland; College of Education: C. Backes, R. McClung, M. Garber, B. Gerber (proxy B. Caster), F. Smith (absent), J. Hummel, P. Anderson, S. Andrews (absent), T. Root-Sirmans (absent), A. Gibbs (absent), A. Brovey, K. Wells, R. Hull, M. Venn; College of Nursing: D. Ebron, D. Roush (proxy D. Ebron); Division of Social Work: R. Vodde (absent); Division of Learning Support : J. Wilkinson ; Odum Library: S. Thomas; Pres. Of SGA: Jake Golden, IV (absent); COSA: Debi Parkhill; AAUP: Pat Bezona

1. H. Bailey called the meeting to order.
2. **The minutes of the October 21, 1999 Senate meeting were approved.**
3. Unfinished Business
There was no unfinished business.
4. **New Business**
 - a. **Report from the Academic Committee** – L. Levy presented the report in the absence of L. Benjamin. He stated that the Academic Committee met on September 13, 1999 and considered two action items. The committee approved the addition of a new Perspectives course and a departmental name change from Management and Information Systems to the Department of Management. **The Academic Committee minutes were approved.**

- b. **Report from the Committee on Committees** – M. Holland stated that at their recent meeting, the committee approved an additional moderator for the faculty server. They also decided to join with the Grievance Committee to address the problem in the statutes regarding naming the chair of that committee.
- c. **Report from the Institutional Planning Committee** – C. Backes stated that the Institutional Planning Committee met on November 17, 1999 and heard a report from the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee plans to begin reviewing responses from the faculty and staff survey in order to have a report for the February Senate meeting. The Committee approved the proposed revised VSU mission statement and will present it at the February Senate meeting. They also formed a sub-committee to review the IPC bylaws and scheduled a committee meeting for January 19, 2000.
- d. **Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee** – B. Gerber was not present to give a report.
- e. **Report from the Faculty Grievance Committee** – J. Elza stated that the Faculty Grievance Committee is scheduled to meet on November 19, 1999 at 12:00 to examine structural changes. The Committee will have a report at the February Senate meeting.
- f. **Report from the Senate Executive Secretary**
 - 1. **Faculty Senate Nominating Committee** – D. Boyd stated that the bylaws require the Executive Secretary to appoint a nominating committee to nominate a Senator to fill the Executive Secretary position as well to fill positions on the Committee on Committees. He stated that D. Bogyo, L. Wiley, and J. Wheeler have agreed to serve on this committee. With no other nominations from the floor or volunteers, a motion, and a second, the committee nominations were closed. **The senate approved the Nominating Committee.**
 - 2. **Changing the requirements for undergraduate superior achievement** – D. Boyd presented a proposal from the Academic Honors and Scholarship Committee that the requirements for undergraduate superior achievement be changed. S. Goel stated that the Committee recommended changed the magna cum laude overall GPA requirement from 3.75 to 3.70 and the summa cum laude overall requirement from 4.00 to 3.90. B. Bergstrom asked if the Committee examined data from other institutions that supported this change and if they could easily gather the appropriate information. **The change GPA requirements was approved.** D. Boyd stated that although there was no implementation date, the requirements could be in place for Spring Semester 1999. R. Hull made a motion that the change be put into effect for Fall Semester 2000, in keeping with the academic year. **This was approved.**
 - 3. **Report from the Educational Policies Committee** – J. Hiers stated that the committee met on September 29, 1999 and considered developing a university policy on Directed Studies. The committee did not feel that there was adequate justification for such policy. They also examined whether VSU's policy documents on Scholarly Misconduct and Conflict of Interest met the standards in the Governor's Executive Order on Ethics in Government and found that they do meet the Executive Order standards. Their final consideration was for a five-credit-hour limit for students registering for Summer Term I. This limit could be overridden only with special permission from department heads or advising center directors. J. Hiers stated that the committee agreed that this is a potential problem and that the limitation would apply only to undergraduate students. **This was approved.**
 - 4. **Remanded request to the Educational Policies Committee** – D. Boyd stated that the College of Arts and Sciences requested that the Senate revisit the current policy regarding

- posting mid-term grades for all students enrolled in 1000-2000 level courses. J. Hiers stated that there was not adequate data to support a decision and that the committee would conduct a survey of faculty and students to measure the effectiveness of the policy. The committee will have a report at a later Senate meeting.
5. **Remanded request to the Athletic Committee** – D. Boyd stated that the Executive Committee had received a request for consideration of a non-sexist alternative to the Blazer Girls for the recruitment of football players.
 6. **Remanded request to the Faculty Affairs Committee** – D. Boyd stated that a request had been remanded to the Faculty Affairs Committee that the requirement of attendance at professional meetings for consideration on promotion and tenure applications be suspended until these activities can be fully funded.
 7. **Remanded request to the Institutional Planning Committee** – D. Boyd stated that a request had been remanded to the Institutional Planning Committee that the faculty be surveyed for their input on the mission of VSU.
 8. **Remanded calendars back to the Academic Scheduling and Procedures Committee** – D. Boyd stated that the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 calendars had been remanded back to the Academic Scheduling and Procedures Committee. S. Seyfarth referred the Senate to the revised calendars from the Committee meeting on November 18, 1999. She added the following changes to the Fall 2000 calendar: New Student Orientation/Registration on Monday, August 14, 2000, Registration on Tuesday, August 15, 2000, and Registration on Wednesday, August 16, 2000. There were no changes to the Spring 2001 calendar. B. Bergstrom commented on the starting date of Fall Semester 2000, noting the uncomfortable temperature that time of year. He asked about any liberties in changing the semester starting date to a later one. G. Wright stated that the Board of Regents sets parameters of start and end dates for each semester that apply for all institutions within the University System. He added that by delaying the starting date, the ending date in December would also be affected. D. Boyd, speaking as a senator, stated that the calendar has one more Wednesday and one less Monday than the other days of the week, which has a significant affect on classes that meet only on Monday or Wednesdays or classes that have Monday clinicals. He said that a possible solution would be to start and end classes on Mondays and start final exams on Wednesday. D. Bogyo revisited the issue of allowing for a Fall Break on the semester calendar, in order to better serve the students. After some discussion, S. Seyfarth stated that the committee had addressed the issue of allowing for a Fall Break and decided that it was too early to make a decision. J. Elza recommended that the Committee survey faculty and staff for feedback on the issue. D. Boyd called for a vote on the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 calendars, as corrected. **The calendars were approved.**
 9. **Request for an alternative to Social Security Numbers for identification** – D. Boyd stated that this request was made in response to an incident involving an English department faculty member. T. Thompson stated that someone else with her name had used her Social Security Number as an identification number for student loans and later accumulated a significant amount of debt with it as well. The other person had also declared bankruptcy with T. Thompson's social security number, eliminating any possibility of future credit. She stated that the resolution of the problem lied in the fact that she and the other T. Thompson are of different races. D. Boyd stated that the Executive Committee recommends that the Administration investigate the feasibility of implementing such a change in identifications numbers and report the findings in the February Senate meetings. Another comment was made that national corporations are using social security numbers freely, which can magnify the possibilities of identity problems

5. General Discussion – K. Wells stated that the Athletic Committee is scheduled to meet on Friday, December 3, 1999 at 3:15 p.m. in the Dogwood Room of the University Center to discuss the issue of the Blazer Girls. J. Hummel stated that he had been made aware of a concern among faculty about information concerning budget cuts for the university and asked Dr. Bailey for his input. Dr. Bailey stated that every attempt is being made to preserve funds. He added that the loss of revenue was from low enrollment, not from lack of state funding. Changes are being made per the request of the Board of Regents.

B. Bergstrom stated that problems seem to be ongoing regarding renting vehicles for university field trips. He stated that it seems that policies are being made without the approval of administration and are not being appropriately brought to faculty. Dr. Bailey recommended that the issue go before the Executive Committee and be remanded appropriately. The comment was made that part of the problem lies in the fact that vehicles have to be rented for field trips, rather than depending on the use of university vehicles.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.