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Debbie Paine
President

Kelly Davidson
**Vice President/
President Elect**

Bobbie Ticknor
Secretary

Dee Ott
Parliamentarian

Eric Howington
Past President

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2020, 3:30 pm
University Center Cypress 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 (fsec@valdosta.edu), any actions sent to the President (dgpaine@valdosta.edu) 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 a Word.doc attachment(s).

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 – Debbie Paine

The meeting was called to order at 3:31PM

2. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Bobbie Ticknor.

Note: Please send an email to Bobbie Ticknor (bbticknor@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.

3. **Approval of the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**
<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php> (See link here for minutes for all faculty senate meetings). – Dee Ott
The minutes were approved.

4. Updates from President's Office: Dr. Carvajal and/or Dr. Smith

Dr. Carvajal:

The finalists for the CIO position will present to the campus on Thursday and Friday, January 23-24.

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Career Opportunities Center in the Student Union (upper level). There is now a meeting room and areas for student organizations to reserve as needed.

Critical Hiring Process

- The President still approves faculty hires, however, staff positions must be approved as “critical” by the University System Office. These positions require an application process to determine if the position meets this criteria. Half of the requests submitted during the first weeks of the semester were turned down. This applies to both new and existing positions.

Legislative Session

- **Capital Budget:** The proposed Performing Arts Center was not on the list for funding for large scale projects (projects over \$5M). Only one project was listed for funding. Another smaller funding pool is available from the general assembly. We will apply for these funds to cover year one costs. The local delegation is supportive of the project. VSU will continue to fight for the funds and is cautiously optimistic.
- **Operating Budget:** We knew there were cuts going into this year from 1) the \$1M drop in e-tuition; 2) increases in electric and health insurance costs; and 3) \$1M costs for the salary study. VSU has planned for these. There was speculation there would be other cuts from the Governor’s Office totaling \$3M. The University did not have a plan for this. The Governor decided to fully fund the enrollment formula meaning universities are still exempt from this budget cut. This is great news.
- There was not a recommendation for a merit increase this year. There is some funding available for those making <\$40K but it is expected no other merit increases will be given.
- The General Assembly is not in favor of raising tuition for the 20-21 school term. They continue to look at the “student fees” generated at the universities. VSU will continue to defend those we currently have in place.

Dr. Smith:

The faculty scholarship fund was depleted. His office added an additional 20K to the account to support the curricular, instructional, and professional development accounts.

The SOI Smart Eval system response rates increased from 33% to >50%.

Revisions to the CORE

- This is continuing to evolve, but the final plan is beginning to take shape. There will be a town hall meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the changes.
- It was previously expected that Area B and F would be removed, but the emerging plan details two similar areas.
- The most recent plan retains 60 credit hours in the CORE but allows for more institutional flexibility.

A senator asked when the Comprehensive Administration Review would be available to the faculty and staff. Dr. Smith noted it is still undergoing revisions and will be released when this are completed and has been approved.

Another senator noted that using the QR code helped increase her response rate for the SOI. She recommended faculty members contact Michael Black if they need directions on how to use it.

5. Old & Unfinished Business

a. Statutory Committee Reports

- i. Academic Committee (fs-stat-ac@valdosta.edu) – Sheri Gravett; Find agendas and minutes here:

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>

The January meeting was cancelled as it was scheduled for the first day of class.

- ii. Committee on Committees (fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu) – Peggy Moch

All openings for Fall 2020 have been sent out to the colleges.

- iii. Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Ryan Smith

No report

- iv. Faculty Grievance Committee (fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu) – Mary Block

No report

- v. Institutional Planning Committee (fs-stat-ipc@valdosta.edu) – Matt Roehrich

No report

- b. November Tabled Motion: SOI recommendation for question change. **Faculty senate executive recommends for spring 2020 the entire university use the 6 questions submitted by the educational policies committee.** See handout.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee made the recommendation to deploy the proposed six questions without a pilot. A motion was made. There was one opposed, one abstention. The motion passed.

There was a motion made that the new SOI questions begin in the Summer of 2020 so the responses needed for the APL Faculty Review will be aligned between Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. There was one abstention. The motion passed.

There was discussion about a request from the Dean's Council and SGA to add the question about feedback being returned in a timely manner. The main

concern surrounded the meaning of timely. There was also concern if the intent of this question was for evaluation purposes vs being formative. There was a motion to add two questions related to feedback and timeliness:

1. The instructor responded to students in a timely manner. (5-point Likert Scale)
2. The instructor provided helpful feedback. (5-point Likert Scale)

Five opposed, seven abstained. The motion passed.

- c. Meeting minutes from the various committees should be sent to fsec@valdosta.edu **AND** to archives@valdosta.edu with “Archives Faculty Senate Papers” in the subject line. Please label minutes documents as shown in the following examples:
- i. Technology_Minutes_04-29-2018
 - ii. Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2018
- Thank you for your assistance in getting and keeping our records up to date. ☺

6. New Business

a. Standing Committee Reports:

- i. Academic Honors & Scholarships (fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu) – Mark McQuade

They met on December 2nd. The end of the year banquet will be more student focused and will not have a speaker. The Dean’s Council is working on making the awards more uniform.

- ii. Academic Scheduling & Procedures (fs-stand-asp@valdosta.edu) – Jose Velez

The committee changed the Fall 2021 Break from October 11-12 to October 18-19 to accommodate a home football game.

Creating a five-year calendar is difficult. They are open to suggestions on how to do this.

The committee has recommended not bringing back the Dead Day as proposed.

- iii. Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – Katherine Adams

There were 13 students selected for the Student Athlete Spotlight. They will be recognized at the women’s basketball game on February 6, 2020. An email will be going out soon for Spring 2020 nominations. The deadline will be March 27, 2020. Those students will be recognized at the end of the year banquet.

- iv. Diversity and Equity Committee (fs-stand-dec@valdosta.edu) – Charles Talor

The committee has created a new webpage and will be sending out a link to all committees soon.

- v. Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) –Chunlei Liu
 - Remand to committee to review possible +/- grading scale revision.

The grading scale revision was remanded to the committee.

- vi. Environmental Issues (fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu) – Evelyn Davis-Walker

They will be meeting on January 27, 2020.

- vii. Faculty Scholarship (fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu) – Can Denizman

The committee decided on the Faculty Research Seed Grant Awards at the December Meeting. Faculty have been notified.

- viii. Internationalization and Globalization (fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu) – Steve Kohn

The committee met in November. They continue to work on defining their mission.

- ix. Library Affairs (fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu) – Hanae Kanno

The deadline has been extended for faculty to request funds for books. Another email will go out next week reminding faculty to submit requests.

- x. Student Affairs (fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu) – Sarah Arnett

They are meeting next in February 2020.

- xi. Technology Committee (fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu) – E-Ling Hsiao

The technology survey is ready and will be sent out soon.

7. General Discussion

A senator asked if it was possible to add a \$1 per credit hour fee that could be refunded for students who fill out the SOI? Dr. Smith stated that there are no new fees allowed at this time.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM.