



FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Chairperson
Ronald M. Zaccari

Vice Chairperson
Louis Levy

Executive Secretary
Christine James

Parliamentarian
Richard Haptonstall

Agenda

October 18, 2007

The Faculty Senate will meet Thursday, October 18, 2007 in the **MAGNOLIA ROOM** at 3:30 p.m.

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 University President and Executive Secretary of the Senate, any actions from the Senate sent to the Executive Secretary for approval after the Senate votes should be accompanied by a written document with the rationale and purpose of the decision. The Executive Committee requests that these documents be submitted as email Word .doc or .docx attachments.

1. Call to Order by Dr. Ron Zaccari
For the benefit of record keeping, senators and visitors will 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.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2007 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**
<http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/documents/Minutes20Sept2007.pdf>
<http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/index.shtml>
3. New business
 - a. Report from the Academic Committee – Louis Levy
 - b. Report from the Committee on Committees – Jay Rickman
 - c. Report from the Institutional Planning Committee – Michael Noll
The current minutes and by-laws of the IPC are available at:
<http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/ipc/>

- d. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee – Jane Whitehead
- e. Report from the Faculty Grievance Committee – Stephen Lahr
- f. Report from the Senate Executive Secretary – Christine James

1. Educational Policies Committee recommendation in regard to Phil Gunter’s question on Graduate Degrees/Doctoral Degrees and special exceptions policies for VSU current employees. (Attachment A, pages 3-5)

2. New Faculty Senators Orientation: Christine James will be available in West Hall 104 on October 28, 2007 between 11:45-12:30 for orientation of new senators, and any questions returning senators may have. In addition, the Faculty Senate Orientation Powerpoint includes a variety of information relevant to your required attendance at Faculty Senate meetings, and the duties of your committees. You can view it using Internet Explorer (the blue “e” on your computer’s desktop) at

<http://teach.valdosta.edu/chjames/FacultySenateOrientationCJ.htm>

3. In response to a question on the Technology Committee: Committees can and should address issues on their own, in line with their charge. This means that **Committees need not wait for the Executive Committee to remand items to them;** although often the work of a Committee will involve remanded items. **The results of Committee work and any recommendations made by committees must be formally submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.** Likewise, **any changes to committee By Laws should be formally submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate** – the Executive Committee must review any/all such changes, and especially in cases where suggested changes to a Committee’s By Laws may come into conflict with the Statutes of the University or the Faculty Senate By Laws.

4. **Sick Leave Hours Bank:** Last year, members of the Faculty Senate expressed interest in donating sick leave hours time to a bank of sick leave hours, for the use of faculty and staff members who have run out of sick leave time, to be determined by a committee administered through the Human Resources Office. To contribute to the sick leave hours bank contact Deborah Reaves, dlreaves@valdosta.edu 333-5691

- 4. Old Business
- 5. Discussion
- 6. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT A:

To: Dr. Christine James
Executive Secretary Faculty Senate

From: Dr. Lynn C. Minor
Chair Educational Policies Committee

Date: September 25, 2007

Re: Recommendation for Clarification of Senate item #04-004

Action Item:

Request to clarify the Educational Policies issue from 2004 regarding “graduate degrees” or “doctoral degrees” being pursued by faculty members who are teaching in the same department in which they seek a graduate degree was remanded to the Educational Policies Committee on May 3, 2007. (Phil Gunter)

Recommendation of Educational Policies Committee:

On September 19, 2007, the Educational Policies Committee met and discussed the item remanded to the committee. A motion was made to change the wording in the previous senate item (#04-004) to include any degree by deleting the word “doctoral”. The committee recommends the item be revised as follows:

No full time faculty member of Valdosta State University will be awarded **a degree** by the college in which he/she teaches. Any exception to this policy must be recommended by the Dean of the College and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Rationale:

The same issues that were present when a full time faculty member was allowed to be awarded a doctoral degree by the college in which he/she teaches would also be present for any other level of degree, graduate and undergraduate. Therefore, the committee recommends this policy cover all degrees.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Lynn C. Minor

Background information:

Phil Gunter question regarding Masters Degrees and Graduate Degrees. Phil has a faculty member who is interested in pursuing a new Masters while already holding a Doctorate in a different field. He wants to know if Masters degrees can be given without special exception appeals, if special exceptions and appeals are only done for Doctoral degrees, or if the person seeking a Masters must go through the special exceptions process.

Date: Tue, 01 May 2007 07:49:28 -0400

From: "Dr. Phil Gunter" <pgunter@valdosta.edu>

Subject: Re: Item #04-004

To: Christine A James <chjames@valdosta.edu>

X-Accept-Language: en-us, en

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US; rv:1.7.12)

Gecko/20050915

Original-recipient: rfc822;chjames@valdosta.edu

Dr. Phil Gunter wrote:

Christine, I'm having difficulty finding item # 04-004 passed by the senate on September 23, 2004. Can you direct me to where I might find the full text?

TX

Phil Gunter

Christine A James wrote:

Hi Phil!

Here is what I have, below, there's references to that numbered item in a couple of different minutes from 2004 (which are on the Faculty Senate website, but you'd need a sherpa guide or something...:-) Hope this helps you:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/facsen/Minutes/040318min.pdf>

(Item #04-004) Recommendation from the Educational Policies Committee -- Michael Schmidt:

No full-time faculty member of Valdosta State University will be awarded a doctoral degree by the college in which he/she teaches.

P. Gunter asked if there should be a distinction between full-time or tenured track faculty.

E. Clark noted that she had spoken with several deans across the area and most schools that have a doctoral degree allow an avenue for exception in extenuating circumstances.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation. After additional discussion D. Boyd recommended the issues be sent back to the original committee. B. Hull noted that a motion was on the floor. M. Meacham recommended voting on the motion. The motion failed. M. Meacham moved to remand the recommendation back to the original committee. The motion carried.

UPDATED later:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/facsen/Minutes/040923min.pdf> (next page)

1. (Item #04-004) Educational Policies recommendation concerning doctoral candidates. G. Macheski asked M. Schmidt to discuss recommendations from the committee. M.Schmidt explained that based on previous Faculty Senate discussion, an exception clause has been added that provides the protocol for exceptions to be reviewed based on merits of the petition. A motion was made to accept the policy and seconded. It passed 31 to 14.

Phil Gunter wrote:

Christine, I did come up with it. As you can see the recommendation started out as "a graduate degree" and ended up "a doctoral degree."

The doctoral degree was the concern at the time. However, now I have a faculty member who wants to complete a master's degree (she already hold a doctorate) in the department in which she teachers. I don't know if the language in item 04-004 can generalize or not. Perhaps, this is another item for senate consideration.

Thanks for your help.

Phil Gunter

*1. Senate item # 04-004: *

*A request to develop a policy regarding tenure-track faculty who are pursuing a graduate degree in the department in which they are teaching. *

*No full time faculty member of Valdosta State University will be awarded a doctoral degree by the college in which he/she teaches. Any exception to this policy must be recommended by the Dean of the College and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. *

*Faculty already accepted into, and currently enrolled in a doctoral program in which they are teaching, are exempt from this policy. *

*This policy will be effective immediately, upon approval by the Faculty Senate. *