



FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Michele Blankenship President	Chunlei Liu Vice President/ President Elect	Taralynn Hartsell Secretary	Melissa Pihos Parliamentarian	Kelly Davidson Past President
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At the Executive Committee meeting, we will review the draft agenda below and revise as needed.

Agenda
October 21, 2021, 3:30 pm
University Center Magnolia Room/Microsoft Teams

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 (sblankenship@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.

Attendance link here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QNOIJbyKU0C0vdwSEygDU4DGNC7nE4IBIELqpw2zy6BUQUVDSUdBR1JLN0xCOEUxRVMYRTVBTThWRS4u>

1. Call to Order – Michele Blankenship
 - a. Guidance for online meetings (Attachment A)
2. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Taralynn Hartsell

Note: Please send an email to Taralynn Hartsell (tshartsell@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 September 16, 2021 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php> (See link here for minutes for all faculty senate meetings). – Melissa Pihos

Brian West motioned to approve the Faculty Senate Minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting. Candace Witherspoon seconded the motion.

Vote results: Approved: 39 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

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

Report from President Carvajal

- President Carvajal announced that the Board of Regents (BOR) approved honoring Dr. Maggie Viverette for her contributions on campus. A plaque dedicating to her work will be located in the new Alumni House space. This location is ideal as Dr. Viverette is a VSU alumni. January 15, 2022 is the date set for the dedication.
- Mental health is a renewed priority particularly for students. President Carvajal talked about Hope Connect is available for those needing the services. Students often communicate with faculty before contacting the health center. Faculty should be familiar with available services to help direct students to the Hope Connect online resources.
- The next meeting for the Budget Advisory Committee is on Friday, October 22, 2021 in the Magnolia Room. Presentations from various units and departments will be made for budget requests.
- The 3rd installment of the CVIOG salary adjustment remains a top priority. President Carvajal reported that Interim Chancellor MacCartney's first priority in her budget proposal to the Governor would be a merit increase for USG faculty and staff.

Report from Provost Smith

- As the co-chair of COVID Task Force, Dr. Smith reported that the most recent COVID numbers for VSU indicated a decline to single digits during the past few weeks.
- He mentioned establishing a joint task force to quickly review and develop policy for post-tenure review. One task will be to define Student Success Activities. James LaPlant and Sheri Gravett are representatives from the administrative unit. The task force needs to decide whether Student Success Activities will become a separate category or interwoven among the other categories of teaching, research, and service. The policy is expected at the BoR office by April 2022; however, the task force and the administration will then decide on implementation strategies.
- He referred to item 7 on the agenda regarding revising the statutes, which have been outdated for several years. He requested Faculty Senate representatives for a Revisions Committee, which would also include COSA and SGA members.

Open Q&A

- Michael Eaves asked Provost Smith to summarize what he meant by the Board Policy on the statutes. The Board of Regents asked universities not to submit any revisions to university statutes, however they are now open to receiving revisions and VSU's statutes require updating.
- Mitch Lockhart emphasized the difference in time taken to approve revision of university statutes as opposed to the quick approval for policy changes regarding tenure and promotion and asked for the perspectives of the President and Provost on this matter. Provost Smith mentioned that VSU faculty and staff have already been talking about student success and how such successes should be evaluated and rewarded among faculty. At the time, there was no procedure for recognizing work with students, therefore, the USG system has identified this as an area of need and is trying to address it. President Carvajal mentioned his support for the USG emphasizing decision-making processes at the institutional level. The administration now seeks faculty guidance for how this evaluation of student success will occur. Provost Smith concurred that the institution has the opportunity to define student success activities and how to count these toward promotion and tenure. Provost Smith added that VSU will also need to define "unsatisfactory" means in the context of post-tenure review.
- President Michele Blankenship expressed her appreciation for the current administration and their inclusion of faculty in the discussions of USG promotion and tenure revisions. Members of the administration have been listening to faculty concerns, which is different compared to what other USG institutions have reported.

5. USG Faculty Council Update: Brian Ring

- Brian mentioned that the current representative on the Council is Michele Blankenship. The mask mandate was a big concern, along with having local control over policies. At the moment, nothing can be done regarding these issues and we have to put these to the side. Post-tenure Review (PTR) policy update has been an ongoing conversation.
- In reference to the statutes, Brian recognized the need for statutes to change a few years back and was happy to hear VSU could begin the update process. A survey was distributed earlier asking about how institutions felt about PTR. He reported that a large percentage actually preferred having the PTR process and surmised the reason was that PTR had been tied with merit pay in the past.
- He mentioned that the Council will continue communicating with Tristan Denley and Marty Venn to receive input from institutions and how they have or will adapt PTR policies. This will be a positive aspect in that VSU can see what each institution is doing.

- Brian did comment that VSU can put Student Success Activities under Teaching as this would allow a lot of flexibility. He did mention that an 11-page report from the Council regarding promotion and tenure was sent to BOR, and student success was nowhere mentioned in that report. Brian saw a lot of content used from that report in what Tristan Denley proposed to BOR.
- Provost Smith added that the new policy included the new administrative review/evaluation. VSU will establish a process that parallels with PTR. Brian mentioned that the PTR for administrators was also not in the report sent to BOR.

6. Post-Tenure Review Policy:

- a. President Michele Blankenship called for nominations to serve on the PTR Task Force. She asked each college (best if nominations are from faculty senate) and libraries to send her the nominations. She will forward these names to Dr. Smith to get task force established. Sheri Gravett is one of the co-chairs and another faculty member will be co-chair also.

7. Revision of the Statutes:

- a. Michele Blankenship called for nominees to serve on the committee. She asked that two or three faculty senators to serve on this committee and to email her their interest. Two senators agreed to serve: Kelly Davidson and Fred Knowles. Brian Ring talked about how the statutes were changed drastically a few years back in 2017-2018. Deborah Paine said she had the original document from years back. This new committee will review what has been done and make recommendations for approval.

8. 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>

Sheri Gravett mentioned that November 8, 2021 was the next meeting. November 1 is the deadline to submit any materials related to programs and courses.

- ii. Committee on Committees (fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu) – Nicole Alemanne

No report

- iii. Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Mitch Lockhart

The committee met twice and made some changes to the University Tenure and Promotion document. These changes will be forwarded to Faculty Senate for a vote at the November meeting. The committee has also been working on the revision of the Faculty Handbook.

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

No report

- v. Institutional Planning Committee (fs-stat-ipc@valdosta.edu) – Shaffat Mubin

Committee not being filled this year. No report.

- b. 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_04-29-2021
- ii. Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2021

Thank you for your assistance in getting and keeping our records up to date. 😊

9. New Business

- a. Standing Committee Reports:

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

No report

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

No report

- iii. Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – Megan Wood

The committee recently had an IT staff member work with them to identify athletes in their classes. This will make it easier for faculty to identify athletes for scholarships.

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

The committee met last week to discuss areas to address this year. No information to report yet.

- v. Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) – Nandan Jha

The committee met last month, but has no report.

- vi. Environmental Issues (fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu) – Gopeekrishnan Sreenilayam

No report

- vii. Faculty Scholarship (fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu) – Kelly Lowery

Committee met twice now. They have awarded 16K in scholarship money. Committee still has proposals to review.

- viii. Internationalization and Globalization (fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu) – Brian Gerber

The committee is trying to find potential courses to be added to the international minor. Graduate students are also interested. Therefore, the committee wants to examine

whether the courses can be cross-listed.

- ix. Library Affairs (fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu) – A. J. Ramirez

No report

- x. Student Affairs (fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu) – Lenese Colson

No report

- xi. Technology Committee (fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu) – Lee Grimes

Committee did meet that included with Crump to send out a technology survey. Hopefully, the committee will receive findings to report in January.

10. General Discussion

Fred Knowles asked for more volunteers to serve on the RSVP task force (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/rsvp>)

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Traycee Martin and seconded by Taralynn Hartsell

Meeting ended at 4:16pm.

Attachment A

Guidance for Online Meetings

During this exceptional time, all Faculty Senate meetings will be held online using Microsoft Teams. The information to connect will be sent over email. This is an open meeting.

To access the meeting easily, use the TEAMS link found in the email containing the agenda or through your calendar link (Outlook).

For the benefit of record keeping, we ask that senators and visitors please identify themselves when speaking to an issue during the meeting. Please note the following:

1. All senators must sign the roster in order to be counted present. We will be using an online roster which can be found by using [using this link](#) (also copied below) on the day of the meeting. If you have a senator's proxy, please include this information using the online form, in addition to emailing Taralynn Hartsell ([tshartsell @valdosta.edu](mailto:tshartsell@valdosta.edu)) at least one week in advance as per Senate By-Laws.

Attendance link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QNOIJbyKU0C0vdwSEygDU4DGNC7nE4IBIElqpw2zy6BUQUVDSUdBR1JLN0xCOEUxRVMYRTVBTTThWRS4u>

2. Given the new online format, the following points are very important for record-keeping and parliamentary rules:

- a. If you would like to join the online discussion, use the "raise hand" feature. The Executive Committee will work to ensure that everyone is able to participate in a timely and organized manner. **Please do not use the chat function to pose questions unless otherwise directed due to technical difficulties by the meeting coordinator or IT.** Doing so can create confusion and timing for responses.
- b. If you are not actively speaking, please mute your microphone in order to avoid feedback and/or background noise interruptions.
- c. When a vote is called use the "raise hand" feature to vote. If you have a proxy, you will need to type the name and vote using the chat feature. Please keep in mind that the online function takes time. We will call for votes in one category and count "raised hands," then ask for proxies through the chat feature. After the votes have been officially counted, you will need to "lower your hand" so that we can call for votes in subsequent categories. Please only use the chat feature for proxy voting. We thank you for your patience as we accurately count all votes.

It is encouraged that all senators and possible attendees contact VSU IT to address any connection concerns before the meeting.

Attendance Roster for October 21, 2021 Meeting

Name	College/Affiliation	Visitor?	Proxy for someone?
Sheri Gravett	Administration/Academic Affairs	Yes	
Becky da Cruz	Administration/Academic Affairs	Yes	
Mike Savoie	Administration/Academic Affairs	Yes	
Leo Melody	Administration/Academic Affairs	No	
Melissa Pihos	Arts	No	
Duke Guthrie	Arts	No	
Ben Harper	Arts	No	Clell Wright
Chialing Lynn Ho	Arts	No	
Lindsay Godin	Arts	No	
Ian Andersen	Arts	No	
Laurel Yu	Arts	No	
Mike Eaves	Arts	No	
Selena Nawrocki	Arts	No	
Dorrian Baber	Arts	No	No
Matthew Roehrich	Arts	No	
Kelly Mathis	Business Administration	No	
Candace Witherspoon	Business Administration	No	
Attila Cseh	Business Administration	No	
Megan Hancock	Council on Staff Affairs	No	
Ashley Cooper	Council on Staff Affairs	No	
Lenese Colson	Education & Human Services	No	
Nicole Alemanne	Education & Human Services	No	
Taralynn Hartsell	Education & Human Services	No	
Hoa Nguyen	Education & Human Services	No	
Kristy Litster	Education & Human Services	No	
Meagan Arrastía-Chisholm	Education & Human Services	No	
Deborah Paine	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Xiaoi Ren	Education & Human Services	No	
Lee Grimes	Education & Human Services	No	n.a.
Hanae Kanno	Education & Human Services	No	Diane Holliman
Brian Gerber	Education & Human Services	No	
Katharine Adams	Education & Human Services	No	
Katharine Adams	Education & Human Services	No	
Brandon Atkins	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Meagan Wood	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Donna N. Sewell	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	Emma Kostopolus
F. E. Knowles, Jr.	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Mary Block	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Nandan Kumar Jha	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Ericka Parra	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	

Brian Ward	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Kathy Nobles	Leadership, Technology, & Workforce Development	No	
Kelly Lowery	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	
James Pace	Nursing and Health Sciences	Yes	
Lois A. Bellflowers	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	Barbara M. Lane
Ken Smith	Odum Library	No	
Rob Taylor	Odum Library	No	
Melinda Harbaugh	President's Office	Yes	
Chunlei Liu	Science and Mathematics	No	
Theresa Grove	Science and Mathematics	Yes	
Brian C Ring	Science and Mathematics	No	
J. Mitchell Lockhart	Science and Mathematics	No	
Ansul Lokdarshi	Science and Mathematics	Yes	
Anurag Dasgupta	Science and Mathematics	No	
Shantanu Chakraborty	Science and Mathematics	No	
Linda de la Garza	Science and Mathematics	Yes	