



## FACULTY SENATE

---

Est. 1991

Eric Howington  
**President**

Debbie Paine  
**Vice President/  
President Elect**

Crystal Randolph  
**Secretary**

Dee Ott  
**Parliamentarian**

Brian Ring  
**Past President**

### Agenda March 28, 2019, 3:30 pm University Center Magnolia 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](mailto:fsec@valdosta.edu)), any actions sent to the President ([ebhowington@valdosta.edu](mailto:ebhowington@valdosta.edu)) for possible inclusion in the Senate agenda should be accompanied by a written document with the rationale and purpose of the request. The Executive Committee requests that these documents be submitted via email as Word.doc attachments.

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 – Eric Howington
2. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Crystal Randolph.

**Note:** Please send an email to Crystal Randolph ([crandolph@valdosta.edu](mailto:crandolph@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 January 24, 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).
4. Updates from President's Office: Dr. Smith
5. Proposed Faculty/Staff Internal Newsletter: Keith Warburg, Executive Director of Communications and Marketing

## 6. Old & Unfinished Business

### a. Statutory Committee Reports

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

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

- ii. Committee on Committees ([fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu)) – Catherine Bowers
- iii. Faculty Affairs ([fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu)) – Ryan Smith
- iv. Faculty Grievance Committee ([fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu)) – Deborah Davis
- v. Institutional Planning Committee ([fs-stat-ipc@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-ipc@valdosta.edu)) – Mitch Lockhart

- b. Meeting minutes from the various committees should be sent to [fsec@valdosta.edu](mailto:fsec@valdosta.edu) **AND** to [archives@valdosta.edu](mailto: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. ☺

## 7. New Business

- a. Standing Committee Reports: Committee Chairs – Forward your revised bylaws to [fsec@valdosta.edu](mailto:fsec@valdosta.edu).

- i. Academic Honors & Scholarships ([fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu)) – Blaine Brown
- ii. Academic Scheduling & Procedures ([fs-stand-asp@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-asp@valdosta.edu)) – Jennifer Branscome
- iii. Athletic Committee ([fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu)) – Napoleon Bamfo
- iv. Diversity and Equity Committee ([fs-stand-dec@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-dec@valdosta.edu)) – Anurag Dasgupta
- v. Educational Policies ([fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu)) – Kelly Davidson  
**Report: Repeated Course GPA Calculation. See Attachment A.**
- vi. Environmental Issues ([fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu)) – Donald Thieme
- vii. Faculty Scholarship ([fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu)) – Luis Gonzalez
- viii. Internationalization and Globalization Committee ([fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu)) – Cindy Tori
- ix. Library Affairs ([fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu)) – Mary Block
- x. Student Affairs ([fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu)) – Jamie Workman
- xi. Technology Committee ([fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu)) – Attila Cseh

- b. **Updates to the Academic Leave Policy. See Attachment B.**

- c. Nominations for three Faculty Senate officer positions: 1) Vice President/President-Elect, 2) Secretary, and 3) Parliamentarian.

## 8. General Discussion

## 9. Adjournment

## **Attachment A:** Repeated Course GPA Calculation

Educational Policies Committee

DRAFT

Repeated Course GPA Calculation

A student may repeat an undergraduate course taken at VSU in order to replace an earlier grade earned in the same course. This policy would go into effect with courses repeated Spring 2019 or later. The courses must be taken and repeated at VSU. When undergraduate courses taken at VSU are repeated at VSU with a higher grade, the *highest grade received* will be counted in the institutional (VSU) GPA calculations. If a student repeats a course at VSU but receives a lower grade, the higher grade from a previous attempt will be used in the calculation of the institutional (VSU) GPA. The repeated course must have the exact same title as the original course. This policy does not apply to courses that must be repeated or are allowed a defined number of repeats as part of the course of study for a major.

The student's transcript and cumulative (Regents) GPA will retain all course attempts and grades. The institutional (VSU) GPA will be used for all purposes except for those mandated by financial aid regulations and other state and federal requirements. The VSU transcript will reflect both GPAs.

This policy applies only to courses that were taken and repeated at VSU. Transferred courses are not calculated in the institutional (VSU) GPA. If a student repeats an institutional course as a transfer/transient student and receives a higher grade in the transfer/transient course, the repeated grade will be excluded from the institutional (VSU) GPA.

Students seeking to repeat a course are encouraged to meet first with an academic advisor or mentor to review why they have not been previously successful in the course and to assess whether they are following the appropriate course of study or major.

## **Attachment B:** Proposed Update to Academic Leave Policy After Split of COAS to COSM & COHSS

Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
DRAFT  
Academic Leave Policy

**Rationale:** *After the split of the College of Arts & Science (COAS) effective Fall 2018, the allocation of College Academic Leave numbers needs to be addressed. The link to the current Policy is found on the Academic Affairs page here (and below): <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-leave.php>*

*Currently the COAS is listed as having 4 Academic Leaves per calendar year. The FS executive committee proposes that we split these 4 leaves to 2 leaves each for COAS & COSM. The amended wording 1) is highlighted below to the existing policy under paragraph 2 of the “Eligibility” section and also includes 2) annual review rewording and 3) the date of our approval for the website at the end.*

### **“BOR and VSU Policy**

In accordance with policy of the Board of Regents, academic leave (referred to as Educational and Professional Leave in Board policy) of one year or less, with or without pay may be granted by the president and reported to the Chancellor.

The policy of the Board is that the leave is granted for only “the purposes of promoting scholarly work and encouraging professional development” (Board of Regents Policy Manual §8.2.7.4).

Academic leave at Valdosta State University will be awarded in accordance with board practice of awarding one semester of leave with full pay and two semesters of leave with half pay. An additional year without pay may be granted with justification endorsed by the department chair, dean, and provost with the approval of the President; additionally, academic leaves of more than one year require the approval of the Chancellor of the USG or her/his designee.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for the academic leave with pay for one semester, a faculty member must have completed at least 3 years as a full-time, tenure-track / tenured faculty member at VSU. However, preference for leaves will be given to full-time, tenured faculty members with six or more years of full-time service to the university. The faculty member will provide a minimum of two years of full-time service to the university upon completion of the academic leave. Additionally, the faculty member can hold no employment elsewhere during leaves with full pay. Failure to meet the agreed upon timeline for production of the approved tangible product means the applicant is ineligible for consideration of further approved leaves, reassigned time release for scholarly activity, and from summer teaching assignments for a period of two years, or until the product is submitted as agreed.

Each academic College may award academic leave each year in proportion to the ratio of full-time, tenured/tenure track faculty members, number of majors and hours. That ratio will currently result in **4 awards per year for the College of Arts and Sciences, 2 awards per year for the College of Science and Math, 2 awards per year for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences**, 1 for the College of Arts, 3 for the College of Education and Human Services, 1 for the College of Business Administration, 1 in alternate years for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. **Review of The enrollment basis for this distribution will be reviewed annual as necessary.** An additional 2 “at large”

leaves will be considered for exceptional proposals from any College and vetted through the Deans' Council. No more than one academic leave with pay per seven-year period may be awarded to any individual faculty member. Resources to accommodate the leave will be garnered at the Department/College level through existing avenues available. For example, lecture type classes may allow consolidation of two sections of a course as one; external funds may be applied to support part-time faculty members to instruct courses; funds for reassigned time for scholarship may also be used to support a part-time faculty member. However, the faculty member who is approved for the leave will continue to be paid in full for the semester of the approved academic leave.

## **Process**

Application for academic leave must be completed and submitted to the faculty member's department head by the first day of classes, one academic year (fall, spring) before the requested period. For example, a faculty member requesting a leave for fall semester must have the application completed and to the department head for consideration at the beginning of the previous fall semester. This is necessary to account for course scheduling. Any application approved by the department head must be forwarded to the dean before the end of the semester in which approval by the department head occurred. Unit allocations of leaves will be sent forward from each dean to the Deans' Council. Final recommendations for leave will be sent forward from the Deans' Council to the Provost.

Primary criteria for approval will be the unique product that elevates the stature of Valdosta State University and of the faculty member. All leaves must result in a tangible professional product related to the professional discipline of the faculty member. A description of the product and a timeline for production will be required in the application for the educational leave.

(Approved by Faculty Senate on 4/21/2011)"

**(Updated & Approved by Faculty Senate on 3/28/2019)**