

Eric Howington  
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Debbie Paine  
**Vice President/  
President Elect**

Crystal Randolph  
**Secretary**

Dee Ott  
**Parliamentarian**

Brian Ring  
**Past President**

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**Minutes**

**November 15, 2018, 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 decision. The Executive Committee requests that these documents be submitted via email as a 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 – Debbie Paine  
**The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm.**
2. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Dee Ott.

**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 October 25, 2018 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**  
<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php> (See link here for minutes for all faculty senate meetings).  
**One correction was noted to change the title from “agenda” to “minutes” on the first page. The corrected minutes were approved by the majority with 1 abstention.**
4. Updates from President's Office: Dr. Carvajal.  
**Dr. Carvajal noted the excitement of the past weekend with the football victory and stated that although our official business of the university is not athletics, we should recognize**

how much it enhances the brand recognition. He applauded the efforts of the student athletes and the work they do for VSU.

At the recent USG System/BOR meeting, VSU received a “shout-out” for the assistance it provided for those who were affected by Hurricane Michael. VSU also received an invitation to appear before the Rural Development Council to present what we are doing in regards to the impact of the South Georgia Center for Development. The president plans to schedule several open forum sessions in early spring to focus on what has happened since convocation concerning retention and recruitment.

5. Printer Policies and New SOI system: Brian Haugabrook, Chief Information Officer

Mr. Haugabrook presented information concerning changes that will be forthcoming on individual office printers. As the university faces a declining operating budget, his office continues to look for ways to be more efficient. A large expenditure at VSU is printers, especially toner costs. Annually, the campus spends \$600,000 on printers, of that amount student cost is \$120,000. A plan for printers to be housed in the colleges is being investigated to determine cost/savings. More information will be forthcoming in the near future. A question of printing in color was asked and Mr. Haugabrook said a color option on the machines would be included.

A new SOI system will be fully implemented in fall 2019. Banner which currently houses the SOI system will no longer be a viable tool to use, so VSU must find a new portal. With the new portal, we are looking for ways to increase response rates and include ways to investigate why students dropped a course. The work previously conducted by the faculty senate (2015-16) was used in determining possible vendors, and Smart Eval has been selected as the best option. A trial run will be done in spring 2019 with approximately 200 course sections before a full launch in fall 2019.

6. Revision to GPA Calculations:

The floor will be open for additional ideas/questions for the committee to consider. (Limit 15 minutes)

Remand issue to Education Policies committee for further consideration. (See Attachment A).

**A discussion was held on revisions to GPA calculations prior to remanding to Education Policies. The summary is attached to the minutes.**

7. Academic Calendar:

The current academic calendar expires in 2020 and the Academic committee is being asked to begin work on the new five-year cycle. The task is being remanded to the Academic Scheduling and Procedures committee. <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/faculty-senate-approved-calendars.php>

**Calendar updates were researched by Tommy Crane and presented via email to the executive committee. The academic scheduling and procedures committee approved a calendar through 2022. This will be forwarded to Dr. Smith and the registrar for review to ensure no issues are noted.**

8. 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)) – TBD
  - 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. ☺

## 9. New Business

- a. Standing Committee Reports:
  - 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 Devall
  - vi. Environmental Issues ([fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu)) – Donald Thieme  
**Environmental committee met and reviewed by-laws.**
  - 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  
**Technology committee met in October with Access Office reps and one item of note was ADA compliance for all online courses. Help is available through the access office, CELT, and e-learning.**

## 10. General Discussion

**Reminder of the Lighting of the Palms ceremony, Tuesday, 27 November.  
 COSA/Faculty Senate/Wellness committee spring employee appreciation date 4/12/19.  
 More details to come. Recent Chili Cook-off was successful.**

## 11. Adjournment

**4:51.**

**Attachment A.** Updating and changing the current cumulative grade point average calculation policy in the University Catalogue.

*The issue of how grades are calculated was brought to the Faculty Senate floor at the October 25, 2018 meeting by the Provost for discussion (see minutes at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php>). After discussion it was tabled so the executive committee could find the policy as written below in the current VSU undergraduate catalogue.*

Below is the section regarding the current **grade calculation method** found in the 2018-2019 VSU Undergraduate Catalogue (Academic Affairs), under the section titled “Grading System”:

<http://catalog.valdosta.edu/undergraduate/academic-affairs/>

“A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 (i.e., an average of at least “C” in all work attempted) is required for graduation from VSU. Grades for credit accepted in transfer or by examination are posted on a student’s permanent record card but are not included in the calculation of the VSU cumulative grade point average.

**The cumulative grade point average will be calculated by dividing the number of hours scheduled in all courses attempted in which a grade of A, B, C, D, F, or WF has been assigned into the number of quality points earned on those hours scheduled.**

Computation of the cumulative grade point average treats WF and F grades identically. Grades of W, NR, S, V, U, K, IP, and I are not computed.

Courses passed with a grade of D cannot be counted as satisfying the requirements in the major area or in a minor.

The repeat rule was discontinued Summer 1989. Cumulative grade point averages calculated prior to that time continue to include the repeat provisions. Academic records that were not adjusted for courses repeated prior to Summer 1989 will not be altered.”

## Discussion Points from the 15 November 18 – Faculty Senate Meeting concerning Grade Replacement at VSU.

These notes have been created to facilitate and support the Education Policies Committee.

Dr. Smith began the discussion by providing some background information he collected.

A document regarding “grade forgiveness” was returned to the SGA for review and revision March 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. It has not been returned until the conversation began at the October 2018 faculty senate meeting.

All information gathered should be sent to Dr. Kelly Duvall – chair, and it was established that Dr. Gravett started this by sending multiple documents to Dr. Duvall which included repeat or replacement policies from other USG schools.

Dr. Smith provided the following examples when calculating GPA’s.

Courses when repeated: “F” first time, “A” second time, does not average to a “C” due to the fact all courses averaged as independent courses.

Grade Example:

12 “C” + 1 “A” as a grade replacement = 2.15 GPA

12 “C” + average of 2 “F” + 1 “A” as single course = 1.95 GPA

12 “C” + 2 “F” + 1 “A” All averaged together as separate courses = 1.87 GPA

VSU currently calculates grade like example #3 (1.87 GPA)

In the floor discussion several points were noted, or questions asked:

- What are the financial aid implications?
- It was noted this is for undergraduate only, but does not include graduate courses.
- It was noted that currently students CAN repeat (no blocks in Banner) a course where they earned an “A” as many times as they sign up and pay for the course to increase their GPA. This also needs to be addressed.
- Questions were raised about investigating if Banner could “kick you out at registration” if you already have a grade of A, B, or C in the system? Especially if you have an “A” for the course.
- It was mentioned many of our students are first generation college students and need additional support to manage and successfully navigate the college expectations. The idea of a grade replacement does not reduce the level of rigor or expectations, but it does allow students who have academic issues early on continue to work to redo what did not work the first time. We should not penalize students from low socio-economic backgrounds who may need some adjustment time.
- Many of the students come from high schools that use a paradigm of mastery learning where outcomes are stressed. They use models where formative feedback is provided and you work to master the learning objectives and it could take longer than “the calendar allowed”. This way of thinking is different than what is typically used in a freshman college course. Grade replacement may provide a better bridge for these students.
- It was mentioned the policy shouldn’t be an “open policy”. Is it fair to the student who made all “A’s” the first time v. the student who made all “F’s” the first time then the second time made all “A’s”. The idea was discussed that many students at the lowest level would probably not be at the top level and why are we comparing student to student when it might be better to compare each student to knowing and being able to do all the objectives, skills, within the course.
- The idea that all grades would still be listed on the transcript with some annotation for any employer who reviews what the replacement grade indicates.

- The guidelines that impact financial aid, Pell grants, scholarships, and other aid will need to be addressed.
- It was mentioned that the policy could have restrictions much like the withdrawal policy. We could allow “a specific number of courses to have a grade replaced” or grade replacements could only happen during the students first \_\_\_\_\_ (30, 45, 60, whatever number) hours at the university. It could be stipulated that once in admitted to a specific program, no grade replacements could occur.

Dr. Smith added the term “Adjusted GPA” would not be used...the term GPA would remain the term used. No differentiation of the two.

Dr. Carvajal added VSU is the only USG institution calculating GPA's using our current method. Early GPA issues interferes with students making satisfactory progress.

SGA INPUT from SGA President Jacob Bell:

He and Dr. Gravett have spoken several times about this topic. First generation college students sometimes get in GPA trouble and look for other institutions that have a more favorable or equitable grade replacement. He stated it was equitable to keep all grades on the transcript and that he and the SGA look forward to moving ahead and working with the senate on this important policy.

**Faculty Senate Attendance:** Please **initial** to the **right** of **your name**. If you are a proxy for someone, write **proxy** to the **right** of **his or her name**.

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Tommy Crane	XX
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Tamara Hardesty	XX
Jesse Cook	proxy
Evelyn Davis-Walker	XX
Joe Mason	XX
Mark McQuade	XX
Matt Roehrich	XX
Ryan Smith	XX
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<b>College of Business Administration</b>	<b>Initials</b>
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<b>Council on Staff Affairs (non-voting)</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Sterlin Sanders	
<b>Council on Staff Affairs (voting)</b>	
Terrance Sullivan	XX
<b>Student Senators (non-voting)</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Jacob Bell	XX
<b>Visitors (please print your name)</b>	<b>Initials</b>
Theresa Grove	XX
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