

FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Debbie Paine
President

Kelly Davidson
Vice President/
President Elect

Bobbie Ticknor
Secretary

Dee Ott
Parliamentarian

Eric Howington
Past President

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes February 20, 2020, 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), 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 3:32PM
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 January 23, 2020 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
There was one change to the January meeting minutes. The new SOI survey will begin in Spring of 2020 (not Summer of 2020 as originally noted). The minutes were approved.
4. Updates from President's Office: Dr. Carvajal and/or Dr. Smith

Dr. Carvajal:

He wanted to thank all of the faculty for how we responded as an institution to the arrest and investigation into the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. The administration is fully cooperating with the investigation. There was a town hall with the COSM where everyone got a chance to discuss what happened. Instability and past challenges were mentioned during this town hall meeting but it was also greatly recognized that we cannot let this derail the progress we have made. VSU has been judged positively by our response.

Dr. Carvajal recently returned from Atlanta. VSU is actively seeking the funding for the performance art center. The South Georgia legislative delegation came to the legislative session to show support for the funding. Additionally, several faculty and students were present to show their support. He remains cautiously optimistic. Next Wednesday is VSU Day at the capital, so we will have the stage to continue making the case for the funding.

VSU is home to the Center of South Georgia Regional Impact 2020 Census Project. Valdosta was under-represented in 2010. The goal of the project is to get more people counted. This equates to additional representation and funding. Businesses also go to more populated counties. Darrell Moore, Valdosta State University executive director of the Center for South Georgia Regional Impact, recently spoke to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Link to the transcript:

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO00/20200109/110349/HHRG-116-GO00-Wstate-MooreD-20200109.pdf>

Watch the full testimony here:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?467977-1/house-oversight-reform-hearing-2020-census&start=3082>

The committee was so impressed with the testimony that they sent \$30K in funding to supplement the project. The funding is going to projects such as billboards, table tents at restaurants, and K5 color pages.

Dr. Carvajal wanted to mentioned some recent celebrations. The Blazer Basketball team is in first place in the division and their last game is tonight.

Gary Colson, who coached men's basketball in the 1950/60s, will be inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. He led the Blazer team to nine conference championships. More on the story here:

<https://vstateblazers.com/news/2020/2/20/former-valdosta-state-mens-basketball-coach-gary-colson-to-be-inducted-into-georgia-sports-hall-of-fame.aspx>

VSU was ranked #1 in the country as the top Master's Program in Public Administration.

Stuart Parker, recently retired CEO of USSA Insurance and Valdosta Alumni, is being celebrated at the USG Annual Gala and becoming a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Q&A

- A senator asked if there was going to be pay increases this year for faculty like those for K12 teachers.
 - Dr. Carvajal noted the pay increases for teachers hasn't been approved as of yet. The Governor called for the raise in his budget but it hasn't been well received. Funding for the raise is in competition with previously scheduled tax cuts.
 - The enrollment formula has been fully funded but nothing else. There is no talk of merit pay. There is a small amount of money to give anyone making \$40K or less a \$1000 raise. It is unclear at this point if that will be mandated and, if so, if the university will have to fund the raises or the State will fully provide the funds.
- A question was raised about representation at the board level focused on reducing regulations/policies and adding more flexibility for faculty members.
 - Dr. Carvajal stated the regulations come from the board and legislators. The board is attempting to simplify but the move in the general assembly is toward greater oversight in the university system. Both parties want the same thing, "the best educated Georgia we can have."
 - The Chancellor is advocating at the legislative level about tuition. The general assembly feel that tuition is too high. Georgia is near the bottom across 16 states in the region. State funding previously accounted for one-half of tuition costs, now it accounts for one-fourth. "This is the new normal." Tuition cannot be raised to offset this reduction in funds so we will have to continue to be innovative with the budget. Tuition has increased 1.7% in the last four years.

Dr. Smith:

Dr. Smith also commented about the tough week dealing with the news about the COMS Dean. He was very proud of how the campus responded. He was impressed by the "display of resolve that faculty have to not slow us down."

There will be two town hall meetings to discuss the general education changes:

- Tomorrow at 2PM in Bailey Science Center
- March 5th at 3PM in the Converse Auditorium

He urged faculty to come and let concerns be heard.

Q&A

- Dr. Moch mentioned that the AAUP is looking closely at the timeline of implementation for the new Gen Ed roll out across the state.

5. Information regarding new VSU Diabetes Prevention Program: Dr. LaGary Carter

Dr. Carter discussed the new Diabetes Prevention Program starting at VSU. This is open to all employees. Research suggests that lowering your overall body weight by 5-7% and doing 150 minutes of exercise a week can greatly decrease the risk of diabetes. There were 15 staff trained on the program in December. Here are the details:

- The program will run for one year.
- The new program will be face-to-face.
- Participants will meet once a week for one hour for the first 16 weeks then bi-weekly or

once a month for the last 16 weeks.

- The first cohort will begin in March. Participants will receive a scale to log weight updates.
- An initial consultation will be done for this group.
- It's free!

There are currently online programs available through Solara. These programs offer similar services but are completely online.

Blazer Summer Research Institute and competition: Dr. Charles Talor

Proposals are now being accepted for the Blazer Summer Research Institute. There is funding for 6-10 projects. All projects will be selected based on a point system. Each college is holding information sessions. See the attached schedule.

6. 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 committee last met on February 10, 2020. VSU is deactivating the master's in music education. It is being replaced with the MAT in music education. The BFA will also be deactivated. The program is no longer accepting new students.

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

Most colleges are moving toward filling seats and committees. The nominations for the new Faculty Senate Executive Committee will be during the March meeting.

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

The committee has met several times to discuss the new faculty evaluation model. They are finishing the final edits on the documentation and will send it to the university shortly. Please email the committee if you have any comments or concerns. They are finalizing two town hall meetings to discuss it.

- 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. 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 minute 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:

- i. Academic Honors & Scholarships (fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu) – Mark McQuade
**Please send in your nominations for the Annie Powell Hopper Award by March 6th.
The Honors Banquet will be held on April 30th.**

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

No report.

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

The committee is seeking nominations for the Student Athlete Academic Spotlight Award. Nominations should be submitted by March 27th.

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

The committee is continuing their work on the website.

- v. Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) – Chunlei Liu

Changing to a +/- grading scale was remanded to this committee. They reviewed several comparative USG schools to find what others are doing. Out of seven universities, only one uses the +/- scale. The committee also proposed the change to several others groups around campus:

- **SGA:** Opposed the change because it could complicate getting credit transferred to other institutions.
- **Admissions:** Opposed the change.
- **Faculty:** Some faculty liked the proposal, others did not. There were concerned raised about reductions in the number of A's a student can receive.

The committee recommended not to move to the +/- grading scale.

Discussion:

- **It might increase the number of grade appeals.**
- **A senator said he would like to see the committee report. The chair stated it was a long line of emails but would be happy to share.**
- **The change would not have any impact on the Hope Scholarship.**
- **Could we consider going to a + only grading scale?**

The recommendation was put to vote. There was one abstention. All other senators voted to keep the current grading scale and not move to a +/- system.

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

They have met and approved goals for the committee.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

They are meeting next week.

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

No report.

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

The technology survey will be sent out to faculty next week.

8. General Discussion

Dr. Paine encouraged faculty to attend the GenEd town hall meetings. Dr. Smith sent out links to the recent updates via email. Here are the links to those sources:

Documentation: [Web-portal.](#)

Presentation: <https://youtu.be/8E0x64jk8OE>

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM.

Faculty Senate Attendance & Proxy Sheet February 2020 Meeting

Please initial to the right of your name if you are present for this meeting. If you are a proxy for someone, write your name under "proxy name" next to theirs.

College of the Arts

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Ian Andersen	IA	
Sarah Arnett	SWA	
Evelyn Davis-Walker		Libba Willcox
Tamara Hardesty		Mark McQuade
Joe Mason	JM	
Mark McQuade	MM	Mark McQuade
Melissa Pihos	MP	
Matt Roehrich		Ryan Smith
Ryan Smith	RS	
Libba Willcox	LW	

College of Business Administration

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Attila Cseh	AC	
Luis Gonzalez	LG	
Marko Horn	MH	
Eric Howington		
Cindi Tori	CT	
Candace Witherspoon	CLW	

Faculty Senate Attendance & Proxy Sheet February 2020 Meeting

Please initial to the right of your name if you are present for this meeting. If you are a proxy for someone, write your name under "proxy name" next to theirs.

College of Education & Human Services

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Katherine Adams	KA	
Nicole Alemanne	NA	
Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm	MA	
Jennifer Branscome		
Taralyn Hartsell	TH	
Diane Holliman	H.K.	Hanae Kanno
E-Ling Hsiao		
Hanae Kanno	H.K.	
Daesang Kim	DK	
Sakhavat Mammadov		
Hoa Nguyen		Debbie Paine
Debbie Paine		
Alicja Rieger		Katherine Adams
Jamie Workman	JW	
Diane Wright		

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Mary Block	MB	
Blaine Browne	BL	
Kelly Davidson		Bobbie Ticknor
Juliana Edmonds		BRIAN WARD
Fred Knowles	FP	Rudy Prine
Steven Kohn	SK	
Babacar Mboup		
Beatriz Potter		PEGGY MOCH
Rudy Prine	RP	
Gabrielle Stellmacher	GS	
Charles Talor	CT	
Bobbie Ticknor		
Brian Ward	BW	

Faculty Senate Attendance & Proxy Sheet February 2020 Meeting

Please initial to the right of your name if you are present for this meeting. If you are a proxy for someone, write your name under "proxy name" next to theirs.

College of Nursing & Health Sciences

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Michele Blankenship	MB	
Laura Carter	LC	
Mallory Lane	ML	Michele Blankenship
Dee Ott		

College of Science and Mathematics

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Anurag Dasgupta		Chunlei Liu
Can Denizman	CD	
Ligia Focsan	LF	
Linda de la Garza	LD	
Donna Gosnell	DG	
Chunlei Liu	C.L.	
Mitch Lockhart	ML	
Peggy Moch	PM	
Jose Velez		
Donald Thieme	DT	

Odum Library

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Catherine Bowers	CB	
Emily Rogers		C Bowers

Retirees Association Representative

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
David Boyd		

Council on Staff Affairs

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Terence Sullivan	TS	

Student Senators

Name	Initials	Proxy Name (please print)
Jacob Bell	JB	

Faculty Senate Attendance & Proxy Sheet February 2020 Meeting

Please initial to the right of your name if you are present for this meeting.

Visitors

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The Blazer Summer Research Institute

Undergraduate Research Funding for 2020

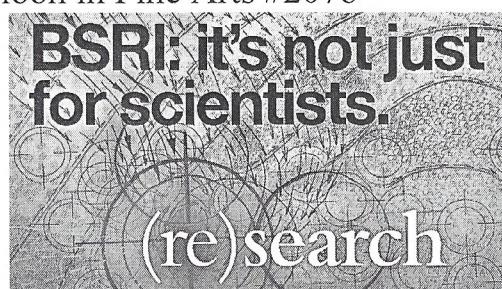
<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/research/office-of-sponsored-programs-research-administration/blazer-summer-research-institute.php>

The Blazer Summer Research Institute (BSRI) is a competitive program for VSU faculty and undergraduate students that is internally funded by Academic Affairs, University Advancement, and private donations. The goal of the BSRI program is to support faculty-lead undergraduate student research projects during the summer term, which *aligns with VSU's Strategic Planning Goal 2*.

College of the Arts

Friday, February 21, 2020 beginning at 12 noon in Fine Arts #2078

If getting funded to work with a faculty mentor to bring your creative research project to reality is something you would like to explore, join us at the Blazer Summer Research Institute Q&A session Friday, 2/21/2020 at 12 pm in Fine Arts #2078



College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Friday, February 21, 2020 at the History Seminar Room 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm

Do you have undergraduate students involved in your research or internships you supervise? Would you like financial support for you and your students? The Blazer Summer Research Institute provides resources for faculty to help in their mentoring activities with undergraduate students to develop research and creative endeavors. Dr. Jia Lu, Associate Professor of Geography will share her experiences about the application process and her 2019 Blazer Summer Research Institute project. This session is open to faculty and their undergraduate students who might be interested in support for their research or creative endeavors this summer. Food and beverages will be provided. The History Seminar room is in Ashley Hall #1112.

Integrating Undergraduate Research into Study Abroad Courses

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the CELT House Lounge

Have you thought about how you can integrate undergraduate research into your study abroad course? Are you looking at maybe expanding something you currently do with your student(s) during study abroad into a formal research project? Are you thinking about applying for the Blazer Summer Research Institute? Then drop by the CELT House on Monday, February 24, 2020 around 4:00 pm to hear more about how this can (and has been) done. Dr. Grazyna Walczak will be talking about how she was able to do this last summer and apply for BSRI funding to support her project. In addition, Dr. Irina McClellan will be there from the Office of International Programs to answer questions about the VSU study abroad program.