



FACULTY SENATE
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate
August 21, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

[August 21 Meeting Recording](#)

[August 21 Senators and Proxy](#)

Items in **bold print** are items that require action by the Faculty Senate. Other items are for information only.

- 1) Call to Order – Susan Boddie
- 2) Declaration of proxies obtained prior to the meeting and request of proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Hoa Nguyen
 - a) Please send an email for the August meeting to [Hoa Nguyen](#) 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 April 17, 2025, meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Motion to Approve – Joe Mason; Second – Chalise Ludlow. Vote: 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.
Motion passed.

- a) See link here for minutes for all Faculty Senate meetings:
<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/>

4) President's Report – Susan Boddie

- a) Committee chairs: Please send annual reports to [Susan Boddie](#)

Welcome back to campus and introduction of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
Secretary position will be open for a Special Election in the following meeting, September 25, 2025.
Nominations for Secretary are accepted until next month.
Committees on Committees are working diligently to fill open Senator positions.
Thank you to the staff and faculty efforts to ensure campus is ready for students.
Thank you to President Carvajal and Provost Noviello for informative Convocation events.

5) Updates from the Office of the President and Academic Affairs- Dr. Sheri Noviello

Dr. Richard Carvajal sends regards as he is unable to be present due to a scheduling conflict.

Provost Updates:

Enrollment Update: 2.3% increase in Overall Enrollment as of Monday (8/18) to point in time for 2024

1. Undergraduate Traditional is down 3% under Scenario 3 Goal, however it is up 0.8% point in time for Fall 2024 (Total 5454 traditional undergraduate students)
2. OCCA Students is up 8.7% over Scenario 3 and up 24.9% point in time for Fall 2024 (Total 1839 students)
3. Graduate Students is up 1.8% over Scenario 3 and up 5.9% point in time for Fall 2024 (Total 3339 students, an increase from last Fall reached a record high for graduate student enrollment of 3099 students)

Overall Credit Hour Production: 100.3% to Scenario 3 Goal; Flat to point in time last year.

First-Year Retention Rate is 74.2%, an improvement from the drop to 56% a couple of years ago.

Faculty Scholarship Funds: For the previous two years, faculty scholarship was funded at \$90,000 and the institution has added \$30,000 in the original budgets, so the total budget for this year will be \$120,000.

Public Syllabi: Thank you to everyone who posted syllabi for CORE Impacts and Teacher Education courses to meet the minimum requirements. Further guidance from the System Office was to publicly post the same course syllabi for students. Additional documents (e.g. schedules, content outline) were posted for the students. We will have further conversations in Fall to guide us for Spring.

Upcoming deadlines to post Public Syllabi:

- **January 6, 2026**, for Spring 2026 - CORE Impacts & Teacher Education
- **May 7, 2026**, for Maymester 2026 - CORE Impacts & Teacher Educations
- **June 2, 2026**, for Full Summer 2026 - CORE Impacts & Teacher Education
- **March 24, 2026**, for Fall 2026 – All Course Syllabi posted prior to registration going live

Not to be confused with the public syllabi, Dr. Michael Black will send an email for everyone to upload their Fall 2025 syllabi to the Success Portal as usual.

Strategic Enrollment Plan: Dr. Miller and Provost Noviello working to finalize and post it by the end of August. Awaiting Cabinet feedback at the moment.

RNL: Engage with recruitment and marketing activities for online college and graduate programs. Different campaigns will be rolled out in the next few weeks – look for advertisements and media.

Academic Affairs Strategic Plans: Actively working on it. The Faculty Success Council, Deans, Department Heads, and Faculty Senate will be key in completing those action items.

USG Mandate for AI Acceptable Use Policy: Coming in Spring or Early Summer, specific guidelines for an institution-wide policy.

1. Draft sent by Dr. Michael Black to Exec. Committee for Council of State Affairs, Exec. Committee for Faculty Senate, and Council of Department Heads for feedback.

2. All will be able to review the draft to provide public input into the policy.
3. Draft policy will then be sent to the University Council on September 18 – can attend the UC meeting in the Cypress Room to vote on as an institution.
4. After UC approval, draft policy will be sent to System Office by October 1 – they will provide feedback for us to consider and follow suggestions made.
5. Final approved policy by end of November.

Pop-Ins with the Provost: Join for conversations with Provost Noviello, Dr. Gravett, and Dr. da Cruz

- September 5, 2:30-3:30 in West Hall Room 1207
- September 19, 2:30-3:30 in Odum Library 1480

Q&A

Q: Concerned about being able to have syllabus ready by March.

A: Understandably, there is a process to develop course syllabi and changes that occur prior or during semester as needed. Still the expectation is that all syllabi are posted. What could happen is starting with the minimum requirements (e.g. student learning outcomes, general required reading materials, attendance policy, things that do not typically change). Schedules and content outline could come later.

Q: Can we have two syllabi - one that is public facing and one that is student-facing?

A: No, the System stated we cannot have a syllabus version for students that is different from the public syllabus. For this Fall, the public syllabus became what was the official syllabus for students. Changes made later to minimum requirements must be denoted with the date of the change. Adding content that doesn't change the minimum requirements is acceptable from our understanding.

Q: Concerns about being told what to put in syllabi and not having schedules yet in March.

A: We typically know what courses we will teach by March 24, though details of the semester come later. VSU used to have a master syllabus where course schedule and content outline were separate. Still discussing possibilities and having conversations about logistics, taking into account both compliance and efficiency.

Q: What are other universities doing? Concerns about how this benefits students and the larger political context.

A: Most institutions post what is posted for students. Guidance from Systems states that changes to minimum requirements need to be denoted.

Q: Does the syllabus uploaded for Michael Black need to follow the new template?

A: Not for Fall, Spring, or Summer. Next Fall 2026, we anticipate what is publicly posted will be what Michael needs for SACS.

Q: VSU purged emails including those with Emeritus status?

A: Only supposed to be alumni and not include retirees and Emeritus. Individuals who lost access can reach out to IT helpdesk to address this problem. If cybertraining is not completed, it can also affect access to account - communicate the person with the issue and get message to Kevin Overlaur. Yvonne will assist with this issue.

Q: Students parking in different places? Will we ticket them?

A: Grace week for students in the first week of semester. We may need to be a little flexible in the first week of classes, and ticketing starts next week.

Q: Concerns about leaking on walls and floors, mold, and maintenance in HSBA building on North campus.

A: Ensure leaking has been reported and people are made aware of it. Intention is to follow up on these issues.

Q: Turning off ACs regularly on weekends and its affects building?

A: Alan Sanderson notes that does not happen anymore.

Suggestion to upload the parking map to Blazeview and explain color coding of the parking lots to students. Report any routine maintenance issues as you notice across campus.

Note to have patience and appreciation for Physical Plant and Staff that look after our buildings, especially in recovering from successive hurricanes.

Q: Leaking in labs and classrooms, especially during rain. What are future plans and possible solutions?

A: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Alan Sanderson has been taking notes, and this is something we can follow up on.

Meeting minutes from 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:

- Technology_Minutes_04-29-2022
- Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2021

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

6) Permanent Committee Reports

- a) Academic Committee (fs-stat-ac@valdosta.edu) – Sheri Gravett; Find agendas and minutes here: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>

First meeting on September 8. Any items need to get to Karen Shephard in Registrars' office by Tuesday, September 2.

All minutes, agendas, guidelines, and forms are posted on the website. Please contact Dr. Gravett with questions. We have instituted changes such as proposed curriculum should include the entire curriculum. Have someone present at the Academic Committee meeting to discuss new items and answer questions.

The new catalog is up. Send any typos or errors to our catalog editor, Dr. Emma Kostopolus, between now and November to make updates before the catalog is locked down to be prepared for next year.

b) Committee on Committees (fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu) – Kristin Kirchner

Dr. Megan Wood is a proxy for Dr. Kristin Kirchner. Committee Chairs received email from Dr. Kirchner on Wednesday confirming membership list of committees. Please email her if there are any inconsistencies.

CoCo will contact SGA to fill vacancies. If the committee has been working independently with SGA to fill these vacancies, please let Dr. Kirchner know where you are in this process.

The Technology Committee needs a Chair, please contact CoCo. CoCo will work with all committees to fill open positions in the coming weeks.

c) Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Joe Mason

In process of scheduling first meeting. Updates for CoCo forthcoming.

d) Faculty Grievance Committee (fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu) – John Dunn

No report.

Q: Received request to look at guidelines to harmonize with BOR grievance guidelines. Can we meet online?

A: Have the option to meet in person or online, can poll committee and decide as chair.

Q: Is majority or plurality voting required to make changes?

A: Once the committee agreed on the document, it will be sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and voted on in FS. A majority vote is needed within the committee to make changes.

7) Standing Committee Reports

a) Academic Honors & Scholarships (fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu) – Chalise Ludlow

No report.

b) Academic Scheduling & Procedures (fs-stand-asp@valdosta.edu) – Kelly Davidson

No report.

c) Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – AJ Ramirez

In the process of seeking a new Chair. No report.

- d) Human Capital Committee (fs-stand-hcc@valdosta.edu) – Selena Nawrocki

Bylaws revisions removed language that is now deemed objectionable. Proposed revised bylaws will be voted on in the September Faculty Senate meeting.

- e) Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) – Chris Dillon

No report.

- f) Environmental Issues (fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu) – Mike Bochenko

No report by proxy Dr. April Strevig.

- g) Faculty Scholarship (fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu) – Mary Beth Rousseau

Confirmed budget allocation \$120,000 for this year. No cut from last year. Thank you to CoCo and leadership for helping sort committee members out.

The call for proposals will be coming tomorrow for accepting applications for travel. We will experiment with accepting applications for August travel just at this first meeting, knowing there may be unintended implications, but don't want to shut people travelling in August out of the cycle. Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute did a fantastic job of tightening the process and we will continue this year.

Q: Can we still have the money for Faculty Seed Grants?

A: We have not had seed grant money, but the Grad School has some money for Faculty Travel.

- h) Internationalization and Globalization (fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu) – Byeonghwa Park

Met yesterday and discussed last year and things moving forward. Coordination of membership and working with CoCo.

- i) Library Affairs (fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu) – Jodi Cronin

No report.

- j) Student Affairs (fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu) – Jieun You

No report.

- k) Technology Committee (fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu) – TBD

No report. Call for a new chair.

- 8) Unfinished Business

Q: Is the Administrative Review still in committee?

A: Yes, still in committee.

9) New Business

- a) Conflict Management & Restorative Practices Committee presentation- Yvonne Landers and Becky da Cruz.

Drs. Yvonne Landers and Anne Price share brochures on the Conflict Management & Restorative Practices Committee (CMRP):

- The CMRP is comprised of staff and faculty trained in conflict resolution and offers an alternative approach to conflict that is different than the HR process.
- Provides individual coaching on listening and resolving conflicts.
- Provides group mediation process that entails agreement from the group and creating win-win options for everyone involved.
- Empowers everyone to learn how to communicate with each other.
- All conversations are voluntary and confidential.
- Nothing goes into a person's record as this is a non-punitive process.
- Lowest-level approach so cannot handle issues such as salary, policy, and criminal activity.
- Can email us or Intake Coordinator, Dr. Becky da Cruz, if you are interested in the committee.

Q: What if the disagreement involves a policy?

A: The focus is on interpersonal relationships between colleagues. For policy disagreements, talk with the Department Head or HR if applicable.

Q: Can you give an example of something you could assist with?

A: Yes, for instance, discussion or disagreement between faculty about a student issue. Or conflict between people with different communication or leadership styles.

- b) **Special election** called for Faculty Senate Secretary, September 25th. Nominations are being accepted. Please email sboddie@valdosta.edu.

10) General Discussion

No items for general discussion.

11) Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – Meagan Woods; Second – Mitchell Lockhart.
Meeting adjourned.

Reports and agenda items due to president: (sboddie@valdosta.edu) by August 28th

At the request of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (fsec@valdosta.edu) any actions sent to the president : (sboddie@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 attached as Word documents.

Proxies sent to secretary (hnnguyen@valdosta.edu): September 18th

Next Faculty Senate meeting: September 25, 3:30 p.m.

Attachments

- A. Faculty Senate Calendar 2025-2026
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes 04-17-2025