



FACULTY SENATE

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate
March 26, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

[Faculty Senate Meeting Recording March 26](#)

[March 26 Proxy and Senators](#)

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 (sign-in sheet for proxies available).
 - a) Please send an email to [Xiaoai Ren](#) 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 February 19, 2026, meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Motion to Approve – Joe Mason; Second – Knicole Lee. Minutes 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 everyone to our March meeting. A couple of things to announce first: all VSU faculty, staff, and students can get into Wild Adventures FOR FREE with their VSU ID on Saturday, April 25. There are some great constructions that we've seen going on around campus. We had a great date on our FSEC meeting on Monday, lots of good activity going on around campus. The campus is looking greener or greener every day, and some construction projects are happening and a lot more forthcoming.

We will have our elections for the vacant faculty senate executive positions. That will be next month. We have been having some conversations with some folks who are interested. That will be for the parliamentary, the secretary, and the vice President, President intellect. I will have those names of specific individuals on the agenda for next month, we will also all open the floor for nominations at that time, and then we'll hold an election, it will be a secret ballot, and we're looking forward to having a great crew next year. We have a dream team here and we'll get to continue in some way next

year.

Updates from the Office of the President and Academic Affairs- Dr. William Crowe and Dr. Sheri Noviello

Provost Updates

I hope y'all are enjoying this very nice weather. Just want to make a few announcements. We have a team of three students that are going to be competing in the first USG innovation and entrepreneurship competition, it is being held at Kennesaw State University on April 6th and the 7th, and we're very excited about this opportunity. We are excited and hopefully will have some winners to announce.

I sent an email out already about the Mary Virginia Terry Center for Experiential Learning. It will officially launch on June 1st with Dr. Anne Price as the inaugural executive director. We received the money in 2016, and we've done a lot of work on establishing this center and this is a part of the VSU 2030 and the academical affairs strategic Plan.

Also on a not so happy tone, we are going to be celebrating Sheri Gravett and Honey Coppage's retirements on April 9th, from 3pm to 5m in the West Hall Conference room.

There are several reorganizations going on across campus. These are not secrets to the people who are directly involved, but you may or may not be aware of them. The communication program is moving from the College of the Arts in with English department and will become the Department of Communication and English on July 1st. They are in the search for a new department head of that new department. Journalism will be moving over to mass media, and the Department of Communication Arts will become the Department of Theater, Dance, and Media, effected July 1, and then the Department of Human Services in the College of Education and Human Services will be relocated to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, except for Industrial Organizational Psychology, and they are moving to Psychology Sciences, effective July 1.

Kate Warner will be the Interim Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. I'm drafting an email right now to kind of announce this, and just to let you know that Dr. Michelle Ritter has decided to step away from the interim Dean role back to faculty.

And then also wanted you all to know Dr. Crowe had requested budget review meetings with each of the Deans, and as we went through that process, I think we've got one more college to do tomorrow. But as we done that, it has been evident about the travel money that has been out there allocated for faculty travel and administrative travel, but the vast majority is for the faculty travel. In 2024, we had a total budget of \$607,000 dedicated to travel. In 2025, we had \$589,319. And this year, we have \$616,000 that's allocated for travel. And sometimes we get focused on what's specifically in the faculty scholarship fund that is at the Dr. Rousseau's purview right now. But I thought you might be interested to know that there's a lot more money outside of that funding as well.

President Updates

I wanted to have these budgets meetings with the deans and other budget managers. We're really reviewing what's been spent this year, what's left over and trying to lay the groundwork for next year's budget. We're trying to focus in on, making sure we're spending our resources, where our

priorities lie.

I'm just having a couple of things in general. One. I've been going around, I've been trying to spend two thirds of my time internally and a third or so externally, so I've been going out around to the 41 public schools that we serve, to meet superintendents and principals to reintroduce VSU to them and see whether there's opportunities for us to partner together. I think I've been to 27 or 28 so far. we should be proud of. It's amazing how many of the superintendents and principals are VSU graduates. And they're looking for an opportunity to partner with us, and I think we just need to open up and give them a chance to partner with us. Certainly, we want their students, but there are also a lot of opportunities for us to help with their professional development for their faculty and administrators.

We talked last time about distance education; the Board of Regents is kind of focusing on online learning and what's going on. And I think more that kind of talk will be coming out. They really would like more students taking face to face courses in Atlanta. I think there is a little misconception about how many are actually in distance education so we're trying to clean that up.

Sheri mentioned the 2030 plans, the 2030 plan has an enrollment goal of 13,000 students in 2030. And we're going to have to move. We did adopt our enrollment goal in the cabinet the other day that we're going to announce here shortly. Our goal for the fall is a 9.2% increase in enrollment. Our admission folks are out there. We're all running around trying to get new students in the institution, and also do everything we can to retain the students we have, all the metrics looking forward into the fall look good and we should be optimistic. But, you know, you can't eat those metrics, so we'll wait and see what happens.

If you've seen social media much, there's been a lot about our residence halls and the conditions that they're in or not in. The cabinet went on a tour of the residence halls on this Monday because I thought it'd be good for everybody to see what they're really like and what we need to do. They're not as bad as they're portrayed on social media, but there is some work to do with the residence halls, and fortunately, we have a fair amount of reserves built up in that auxiliary fund, and so you're going to see some activity this summer in the residence halls and make that a better living situation for our students.

I would say two more things. One, I hope if you don't have plans for Saturday morning, you'll come into the open house Saturday. I've been impressed by how many people participated in, how many academic programs and others participated in that, and I think we've got a big group coming. Dr. Miller called me this morning when he didn't know if I had any extra money to help pay for meals because they've expended their budget for meals because of the number of people that are coming. So we're going to have a big crew on Saturday.

We don't do a very good job of telling our story. I was with the library folks yesterday and it was really interesting to see all the things they were doing, and I was especially taken by the archives group and all the work they're doing and what they do for us and what they do for the surrounding communities, and collecting archival information and helping digitize that and other things, and it's really awesome. This is something that's kind of tucked away, I don't think a lot of people know about. I think we need to do a better job bragging about those kinds of things we do.

This is faculty staff appreciation week. We really do appreciate everybody's efforts. This is a special

place and I think we just need to be more hopeful and joyful and vibrant and do everything we can to make this institution feel like it's really on the move and get going.

Q. Mary Beth Rousseau from the College of business. Can you update us on the status of the presidential search and when we might be expecting candidates on campus?

Dr. Crowe: yes and no. I know just a little bit because I really tried to stay out of the search process because that's the Chancellor and others' responsibility and I don't think they care what I think about it. The application deadline closed March 6th, so I think the committee is reviewing applications and trying to narrow that down into a manageable group to really take a closer look at. I don't think they're going to bring a lot of candidates to campus. I don't think they're going to follow the traditional selection process. I think the Chancellor and others are concerned about helping candidates feel comfortable and protect those candidates back at their home institution. I think the process is going to be a little different, but at some point, I think there will be an opportunity for everybody to give feedback. It's kind of what I'm thinking. That's just me. No one has told me anything. I think the committee has sworn to secrecy, so they're not talking either, so I'll just say you putting your faculty senate president on the hot seat, because she's not supposed to tell anybody anything. I think they're making really good progress, and my hope is we have someone on board, in mid-June or early July, so that they can kind of get their feet on the ground before classes start the fall. And I want to be able to go back home to Texas and enjoy the wonderful temperate climate we have in Texas.

Q. You mentioned that there's other money for travel, other than the faculty scholarship. Can you elaborate on where we can access that money and where is that?

Dr. Sheri Noviello: It's in pockets of money at your department head level and at the Dean level. Graduate school has money as well. Your department head first and then your dean.

Dr. Crowe: One of the things we've done in these meetings is to look up where there's money remaining in budgets. We want to be conservative. We want to make sure we spend money the way it was meant to be spent, and it's in the budget to be spent. Our expectation is that money is extended during the year. You know, we have all this money that we're running around trying to spend at the end, I'm not sure it's strategic.

Dr. Sheri Noviello: I just wanted to take an opportunity to say, if for some reason you were denied travel from the faculty scholarship fund, **please don't reach out to Monica Close**. She is the one that's actually doing the logistics of the payment out or the coverage if you have questions about that. Please reach out to Dr. Rousseau. The committee is the one that makes the decision about funding or not funding. It's not Monica close, just to clarify that.

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>

Academic committee met in March. We're still handling quite a few items that are coming through, as you can well imagine this. We're getting ready for the new catalog. We have a number of items, but just a couple of things to be aware of, that one degree name that was approved locally is now approved by the USG: Master of Accountancy program will now be Master of Accountancy and Analytics program. That decision just came back from the USG this week, so that will be starting in the fall.

We're also working to add to core impacts. It is an eCore course Econ 1101 economics and financial literacy, and this is also going to be minor. We have one more meeting left this year, so be sure you get your stuff in if you want to be on the agenda for that April meeting. Thank you very much.

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

Proxy – Haley Sherman

The committee on committees is working to fill the vacant seats for the upcoming year. If you know of any upcoming changes that impact your ability to continue to serve on Faculty Senate, such as a position change, please alert your colleges' Coco representatives as soon as possible.

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

The only thing that we have to report is thankful for the committee, and especially Forest Parker, for working with Barrie, but everything has been set forth for the administrative tool to go out in January of 27 so we are all set with that.

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

No report

7) Standing Committee Reports

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

Proxy – Hank Rion

Chalise said they have received all the nominations for the Annie Powe Hopper award. They're going to meet next Thursday to discuss and start scheduling interviews. and met with the president's office about dinner and started preparing the banquet.

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

No report

- c) Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – Kristin Kirchner

Proxy – Haley Sherman

No report

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

No report

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

Proxy – Susan Bodie

No report

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

Proxy – April Strevig

No report

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

In our most recent meeting, several proposals were denied, because they were submitted after or during the time that the faculty member was traveling. All three out of four of those proposals had received their letter of acceptance in 2025, in November or December, and they did not apply for the scholarship funding until February 20th this year. By the time the committee met, their travel had to already occurred. We encourage faculty please send your request to the faculty scholarship Committee as soon as you have received your acceptance letter.

We had through the provost's office been able to maintain a budget of \$120,000 to allocate throughout the year. And I can say that we had to turn anyone down because of a lack of fund. The deadline for our very last meeting of the year is April 20th. If you are traveling during the summer, you may submit a proposal. However, the funding must align with the fiscal year, so we can address your proposal and approve it, but your funding will not be allocated or available to reimburse you until the new fiscal year begins.

I know there were some disgruntled faculty as a result of the last round of faculty scholarship Awards. We want to fund anybody, everybody, our default answer is always yes until there's something about the guidelines that doesn't comply.

The other thing I want to emphasize is that there are two members from every college that serve on the faculty scholarship Committee. So, this is a committee of your peers. When you apply for faculty scholarship funding, it's your peers who are reviewing all those applications on your behalf. And I know you would prefer if we had exception handling for late submissions. But that means that you're asking approximately 13 of your colleagues to consider exception handling when we already have a process. I just wanted to take this opportunity to clarify that.

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

The committee welcome the new chair elect in our last meeting and will meet again next month.

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) – David Cole

No report

8) Unfinished Business

a) Faculty Grievance document revisions update.

Susan will be continuing to work with Dr. Dunn on updating the grievance document policy and hopefully we can have that ready to be voted on by the next meeting.

9) New Business

10) General Discussion

a) Executive committee elections in April

We have had some great conversations with some folks who are interested in taking on some of the positions that will be vacant. I will list their names as nominees on the next month's meeting agenda and we will also take nominations from the floor before we have our election by secret ballot.

Dr. Kelly Davidson: We will have the undergraduate and graduate research symposium coming up April 7 and April 10. April 7th is the undergraduate, April 10th is the graduate. I encourage everybody to attend, bring your students, encourage them to go. They're going to get learning credits when they swipe into each of the sessions. This could be a really nice experience. If you have students who are presenting, I hope that you will support them, allow them to be able to go and present and come and support them. Thursday night we'll have a keynote speaker who's one of the most engaging speakers I've ever seen, and she's going to speak about how to use our undergraduate studies to make the world a better place. So that's Thursday at 6pm in the student Union Theater. I hope to see all of you there.

Q. My question is, since you mentioned the students can swipe in, I'm a big extra credit offerer. So, can we

get a list of the students who swipe into different things and offer them extra credit for attending? And will that also be the case for the speaker event?

Dr. Kelly Davidson: We are going to be able to pull those lists. I want to thank Anne Price and Carla Jordan for working with us on that. Also your colleague, Kristen, came up with a great idea of bingo, where we have different categories. If you attend and ask the question or if you attend this kind of session, things like that, then we can also have that so faculty members could use. We're trying to make it a little fun and engaging with the documentation, but we'll also have the list as well.

Dr. Sheri Noviello: I just want to remind you to use the Blazer Link, which is what they are using to check in, but we want to encourage all of you to spread the word when you have academic programming outside of the classroom or maybe you have extra activities within the classroom, that you want to capture engagement, please use Blazer Link to do that. That will help us kind of get a better picture of experiential learning opportunities across campus.

3) Adjournment

Our next faculty meeting will be a little bit later in April due to room availability. It will be on April 30th. The agenda will be sent out the week before. Please send in proxies by the week before, which would be April 23rd, and that will be our final meeting for the term and our election day as well.

Motion to adjournment– Megan; Second – Catherine

Reports and agenda items due to president: (sboddie@valdosta.edu) by April 2.

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 (xren@valdosta.edu) by April 23.

Next Faculty Senate meeting: April 30, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

Attachments

- A. Faculty Senate Calendar 2025-2026
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes 1-15-2025
- C. Belonging Accessibility Engagement Statement