



FACULTY SENATE

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate
September 25, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

[September 25 Meeting Recording](#)

[September 25 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 August 21, 2025, meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Motion to Approve – Will Wise; Second – Chalise Ludlow. Vote: 40 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](#)

Thank you everyone for being here. Welcome to our September meeting. I hope everything is going well with your classes, students, and campus.

As noted on our agenda, there are a few items we will be voting for later in the meeting under new business, and we are excited to have our Special Election fill our vacant Secretary position. Thank you to VP for helping us out with the secretarial duties during this transitional period.

Thank you to CoCo, who is working tirelessly to fill those seats. Thank you for your grace and patience as we get things figured out and update the rosters.

Auxiliary Services are still in need of a volunteer senator to sit on the Parking Committee, so please reach out to me if you are interested. They meet once a semester, so it's not a substantive time commitment, but they will appreciate it.

I want to take some time to let President Carvajal know how very grateful we are for the leadership he has provided for VSU for almost 9 years. Leadership, along with stability, growth, during COVID, cyber intrusions, and launching numerous renovations on campus. I know the impact he has made on VSU's growth and his tireless and complete commitment to students, staff, and the VSU commitment. We appreciate his strength, integrity, and resilience. And to quote you, President Carvajal, "we still have more to do." We are fortunate to have you until December, and we will miss you.

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

Dr. Richard Carvajal Updates:

Thank you so much. This is the first meeting of this Senate since the announcement. If you were at the BAC meeting a couple of weeks ago, you heard me speak about this a little bit. We all get phone calls all the time, but my answer has always been the same—I love it here, thanks but no thanks. But we got a call about a place that was signed to invest half a billion dollars to turn it into a polytech. That was interesting, but it was the fact that it was the place I grew up in, where my childhood home was, where I would watch football games and events, and where my family called our first home. When I shared with the BAC group, we told my mother the night before and she bawled. So, this is clearly personal for our family. We are excited about it. That said, it is bittersweet.

I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the messages since the announcement, either sent to me or posted online. I have so much gratitude for that and what you have said. I want to thank you for all we have done together. I came here clearly with a goal to leave a place better than I had found it. Collectively, we have made it better. As Susan said, we are on a good path to continue to be better. And I will now be that nosy retiree to make sure it continues to get better and follow your progress.

The Chancellor has asked me to assist with the search for the next president and educate the new leader, a role I am happy to take on.

Given our progress, I expect an extremely strong candidate pool and look forward to the fresh ideas the next president will bring.

Enrollment Update: This Fall, we've hit our 6th consecutive term of year-over-year enrollment growth.

- Enrollment is up by 112 students compared to last October.
- We have seen improvement in traditional undergraduate, OCCA, and graduate students.
- The plan we put in place is working, and we are excited it will continue. Congratulations and thanks to everyone for everything you have done to achieve this collective win.

Budget Update: We have started working on our budget development cycles for next year. The governor gave the system the ability to request an increase in allocation based on the enrollment formula. That is important for VSU because we are now growing.

- Early projections suggest 1.7 million dollars of additional funding per allocation if that is supported by the General Assembly.

- We also were supported by the Board of Regents (BOR) to stay avid with our Small Capital project (renovating the middle part of the UC) - requested almost 5 million dollars to be able to do that. BOR have put that forward as one of their requested projects to the governor.
- The Board has submitted this project to the Governor. We'll know in January if it's included in the Governor's proposed budget. Often small capital projects are not on the list, but we can then advocate bringing those projects with the members of the General Assembly. Given our previous successes, we can be optimistic about our chances to do that.

S.L. Mason: We want to update you on a nearby incident today. A threat near the school was quickly addressed. We are grateful to Valdosta and campus police for their response. There is no active threat now, and no one inside the school was affected or harmed.

Provost Dr. Noviello Updates:

Public Syllabi: We do not have further guidance on public syllabi posting. We are still figuring out how to have conversations on what is best to do as a collective.

Public CV: The additional piece of the initiative from the systems office is the CV postings for public access. Michael Black has been working with IT to see if we can use our current directory. One complexity is part-time faculty, which changes from semester to semester. Michael Black is on top of that. It is not the full CV, but portions of the CV. We do need some clarity on what recent publications refer to.

Academic Program Wellness: We have been working on an Academic Program Wellness report, which will have multiple data points for each program for discussion with faculty, program coordinators, department head, in looking at how great our programs are. So really looking forward to communicating across campus.

Q&A: No questions.

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>

Provost Noviello shares report:

- Interdisciplinary studies curriculum was revised with immediate implementation.
- Last Academic Committee meeting minutes are posted on the website.

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

Megan Wood serving as proxy for Kristin Kirchner:

- CoCo is still working to fill vacancies on committees.
- If any senators are willing to fill in until May 2026 as the Chair of Technology Committee or Athletic Committee, please contact Dr. Kristin Kirchner.
- Elections for new senators and committee spots openings in Fall 2026 will begin soon.

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

Committee and devised a survey sent out to faculty with comments on the evaluation, expecting those by October 3rd. We will review them and bring our findings to the next Faculty Senate meeting.

- 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

Committee met and created Teams folder of all past documentation from previous scholarships. We are working on wording and questions for the Annie Hopper Award.

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

No report.

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

No report. Looking for a chair volunteer.

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

No report. The bylaws are the only update for today.

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

No report.

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

No report. Meeting scheduled for October 1st.

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

The first call for scholarship proposals went out and received 30 proposals for our September meeting.

- 20 approved, 3 denied due to incorrect forms, 3 denied due to incompleteness, and 6 proposals deferred given the confusion with cutoff date of only accepting travel through October 30.
- The 6 deferred proposals will be considered in the October 29 meeting.
- Please encourage colleagues to visit our website, use updated forms, and follow the directions.
- Thank you to CoCo for filling vacancies.

Q: Can I resubmit if I did not do it correctly the first time?

A: Depends on the timing. If you have time to resubmit before your travel date, you are welcome to resubmit within the cycle. For some applications that fit, we would deny and invite you to resubmit.

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

First committee meeting on September 11:

- Committee Name Change from “Internationalization and Globalization” to “Internationalization” for conciseness and committee purposes. The proposal is scheduled for our next meeting.
- Potential development of a professional promotional brochure to increase visibility.

Q: Is there any existing support on campus that could assist with the design and production of such materials?

A: Dr. Boddie will reach out regarding the committee's name change proposal as well as existing support for promotional materials.

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

Committee met on September 15:

- Department Library Funds: Each department should put in a request through library liaison. If they need to be available by Spring semester, those requests should be sent through library liaison by October 31st.
- Contingency library funds: We revised the forms and set our timeline. The first communication will be sent out after Fall Break with a due date of the first week of February.

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

No report. First meeting is scheduled for October.

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

No report. Looking for a chair.

8) Unfinished Business

a) Update on Faculty Grievance document review.

We have started and hope to finish in a month or so.

9) New Business

a) Intellectual Property Committee presentation. - Present next month in the October meeting.

b) Faculty Handbook paragraph revision. - Will be sent out for next October meeting with attachment.

c) **Special election – Faculty Senate Secretary.**

i. Dr. Xiaoi Ren - nominated.

ii. Nominations from the floor. - None

This will be a secret ballot vote. Ballots will be circulated by colleagues. They will be collected and counted while we discuss the revised Human Capital bylaws.

Dr. Xiaoi Ren elected as new Secretary – welcome to the Faculty Senate Executive, Dr. Ren. We are thrilled to have you.

d) **Human Capital revised bylaws.**

Motion to Review New Bylaws – Joe Mason; Second – Catherine Bowers.

Human Capital Committee has been discussing the revisions of the current bylaws. The purpose of these changes is to remove certain language specifically mentioning items such as gender, race, disability, in favor of a more generalization referencing all students, faculty, and staff.

The four revisions include:

- a. Reviews and recommends policies and procedures pertinent to equal access and opportunities for all students, faculty, and staff.
- b. Reviews and recommends policies and procedures to quality support programs for students to ensure maximum engagement and student development.
- c. Promotes and/or initiates programs and ongoing projects in order to create a campus culture grounded in respect for all and where everyone is treated with dignity and sensitivity.
- d. Works with groups and organizations across campus and surrounding communities to promote and initiate activities with the goal of increasing belonging on our campus.

Q: Can those be circulated as poll so we can see them on paper?

A: They are included as an attachment with the meeting invite.

Q: What Human Capital refers to?

A: There was a name change in the Spring semester and they needed to update the bylaws.

Q: Which attachment are the bylaws?

A: Attachment C – need to be opened up in Office to see the edits.

Q: Is there a list of words we can't use?

A: The committee did a decent job of aiming for the same idea with different words.

Q: It doesn't really have the same meaning, but maybe that is what we have to do. Belonging and diversity don't mean the same thing. Is there something we need it for?

A: We need to update the current bylaws after the name changes in Spring.

Vote on Human Capital Bylaws: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstentions. Motion passed.

10) General Discussion

Q: Multiple searches for different departments. We were wondering about the effects of the new H1B policy.

President Carvajal: We are waiting on further directions. This affects our employees and students. For people planning travel, we do not recommend leaving the country at this time. We are awaiting further guidance and are responding with the immediacy we have.

Q: The last meeting, we had a number of people bringing up issues about maintenance and student complaints about dorms. Is it possible for the Senate to create a committee to investigate what parts of our campus need maintenance to lobby for money for Physical Plant?

Dr. Boddie: That will be discussed at our next meeting and in consultation with CoCo. With the number of committees that exist with vacancies, we may come up with a different way and have an update for you.

Q: Concern from some faculty members about the changes in the public syllabi and details that were asked to be added. When asked to make revisions, faculty were contacted by department heads on their personal phone rather than by email and directed not to use email or official means of communication that would have a record discussing changes. Further, the department head instructed faculty members not to discuss or communicate through other reportable means about the revisions. The faculty member was concerned, uncomfortable, and characterized this as being unprofessional and clandestine to not be able to discuss official business by official means.

Provost Noviello: That was certainly not the intent. Since the syllabus changes were a last-minute request (between Friday and the first day of class), we prioritized getting the information out directly and quickly to allow for questions. The goal was to share the information immediately, not to be clandestine.

Megan Wood: For CoCo, it might be helpful to have an idea for what the committee does when requesting volunteers.

- Athletic Committee serves as a committee where they do a student athletic spotlight award. Faculty nominate students for the award. The committee reviews those students who were nominated and organizes an award ceremony. They meet twice a semester and coordinate with Athletic Department.
- For the Technology Committee, they meet once a month, to discuss issues with certain technology. They ask departments to bring any technology issues to the committee. In the past, the committee discussed the use of AI in classrooms and grading.

Q: Regarding the H1B visa, what to do with international applications? Thoughts from HR?

President Carvajal: Again, we are waiting on further directions. You can go to the staff of the international programs and work with them to collect those issues. We advise against leaving the country to avoid challenges with returning. Reach out and collect questions as they arise.

11) Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn – Megan Wood; Second – Joe Mason. Meeting adjourned.

Reports and agenda items due to president: (sboddie@valdosta.edu) by September 18th.

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: October 16, 3:30 p.m.

Attachments

- A. Faculty Senate Calendar 2025-2026
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes 08-21-2025
- C. Human Capital Committee revised bylaws proposal
- D. Faculty Handbook revised paragraph proposal