



FACULTY SENATE

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

[Faculty Senate Meeting Recording 8-20-2026.m4a](#)

[Faculty Senator Sign-in Sheet 8-20-26.pdf](#)

[Proxy Sign-in Sheet 8-20-26.pdf](#)

Faculty Senate

August 20, 2026, 3:30 p.m.

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

1) Call to Order – Hoa Nguyen

- Warm welcome back to campus.
- Excited to have new faculty on campus.
- Introduction of Donald Green.
- Senate President thanks upper administrators for attending Faculty Senate meeting.

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).

- Proxies identified themselves (see Proxy Sign-in Sheet linked above).
 - Reminder that a faculty member can only proxy for one Senator per meeting.
- a) Please send an email for the August meeting to [Ryan Wander](#) 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 30, 2026, meeting of the Faculty Senate.**

Joe Mason: motion to approve minutes from last meeting.

Kristy Litster: second.

Ayes: 46. Nays: 0. Abstentions: 0.

Motion passes.

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

4) President's Report – Hoa Nguyen

- New Executive Committee consists of Hoa Nguyen (President), Christine James (Vice President/President-Elect), and Ryan Wander (Secretary).
- A special election for Faculty Senate Parliamentarian will be open at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- Committee on Committees is working hard to fill vacancies; Senators should reach out to Samantha Paul or Hoa Nguyen about Committee vacancies and related questions.

- a) Committee chairs: Please send annual reports to [Hoa Nguyen](#)

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

Don Green:

- has received questions from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- faculty will occasionally be frustrated with him.
- he most wants to serve faculty and students.
- he's never trying to intentionally irritate or frustrate us.
- "We have a finite amount of resources." Also notes that "we have exponential possibilities" and that "we're trying to thread a needle."
- Invites faculty to visit him in his office. Invites faculty to visit Sheri Noviello. Gives out his cell phone number: 616-690-6789.
- Asks Faculty Senate, Do we want to keep our jobs? We have to operate our business in a way that allows us to pay the bills.
- We're better on data on retention and enrollment than in the document he shared earlier.
- We don't want to be 4th out of 4 in key metrics. We are 4th out of 4 in the development of new degree programs among USG comprehensive universities.
- We're 3rd out of 4 USG comprehensive universities in 6-year graduation rate.
- On shared governance: "we're going to be open about shared governance." "Shared governance means shared responsibility." We're in this together when it comes to doing things that serve this institution. We're in this together to serve students. We need to do everything we can to retain every student and lead them to graduation.
- Asks senate to look at presidential strategies list. Asks senate to tell him about strategies, tactics, etc. that we can employ to improve student retention and promote institutional success.
- Mentions how much he improved retention in one year at his past institution.
- Mentions graduation message. "You are here to graduate." We know that you have a better life if you complete your degree. We need to tell our students this.
- Mentions tracking attendance, especially in introductory classes. Tracking attendance sends message that "I notice you. I know when you're not here." It is a message that has an incredible amount of power to help students get to graduation.

Question: How would hitting benchmarks translate into resources coming to us?

Don Green: More information is needed to fully answer this question. We need more money from marketing. What new degree programs will we develop with the money? We can get donors to help with developing some programs. If you can grow, you can have more faculty and resources. We need to grow (in numbers of students) to get more resources and more faculty. Funding formula is changing: 25% of funding will be based on things other than enrollment. USG has gone to it's not good enough to get students in; we need to retain them and make them successful.

Question: if a student misses 20% of a class, there are consequences. You might fail. Are we coming up with a strategy or policy?

Don Green: don't penalize students for not making it to a specific benchmark for a class. If they demonstrate mastery, do not penalize a student for failing to hit an unrelated benchmark.

Question: how can we get resources/equipment when we need it?

Don Green: if we grow, there will be money. We need efficient supply chains and processes. He was annoyed by administrative processes at Gordon State. In short time here, Don has heard frustration about people waiting too long for things, e.g., it takes too long to get message out on social media, etc.

Question: can we have two funding tracks?

Don Green: directs Chia-Lynn Ho to other administrative people.

Question: is there money to set aside for recruitment agencies? There are schools that hire agencies to recruit students. What does Don Green think about using outside recruiting agencies?

Don Green: we are talking with an outside agency that could be involved in recruitment.

Sheri Noviello:

- Regarding document that Don Green distributed to everybody: look at retention rate: we have, as of Monday, a 75% retention rate.
- Student Success Council has been resurrected. Council was charged with identifying obstacles to student success. Student Success Council has already met. Someone who's been here a while gave a historical perspective on student retention. Talked about 70-80 retention strategy. Talked past strategies. Never able to pass 72% retention. Covid hurt retention.
- What strategies can we pursue to retain students? Encourage students to attend; if students attend, it gives us opportunities to engage with them, and if they miss class, you can show them that you care.
- We want our students to have grit, we want them to persevere, we don't want them to give up easily.
- Faculty need to provide meaningful engagement in the classroom.

- Along with attendance, we are requiring midterm grade reporting for all courses, 1000 through 400 level. Research shows that students who are aware of how they are doing in class are more likely to persist and eventually graduate.
- We are working on getting d2l to pull grades directly into Banner. We are working with IT to make the process as easy as possible.
- A message went out to faculty and staff asking about new programs. 50 or so ideas for new programs have come in. We are trying to figure out what to prioritize. Please pass ideas along, pass along ideas for new programs through your dean, dept. head, Sheri Noviello, and/or Don Green. More to come regarding new programs.

Question: I'm skeptical of the early alerts system. I tried the early alert system for the first time this past summer. Did it work? There doesn't appear to be a way to follow up and see if it worked; is there a way to follow up and see if it worked?

Sheri Noviello: Yes, there should be. We should be able to trace that.

Question: clarification about midterm grade entry. How does it work?

Sheri Noviello: grades need to be in Banner by the due date for the midterm.

Comment: Success Portal pulls from Banner, not D2L.

Question: I have a concern about the IT system. There should be a way to test-drive new IT systems to see what will help to implement best. 2nd question: I can't even choose what programs I use to open files, etc. Is there a way to fix that?

Sheri Noviello: there are a lot of restrictions because of the cyberattack we had last year. System office mandated some restrictions on IT system matters. We are working through options to address this. One of the issues we have is that we have to use Banner. We can only purchase a patch to improve functionality of Banner. There's a lot of restrictions there. There isn't a whole lot we can do. We will ask you when opportunities for you to offer feedback come around.

Don Green: When it comes to grades, typically students who fail have no idea what their grade is at all. If you ask them, they say "I hope my grade is 'fill in the blank.'" One strategy is for instructors to ask students to tell them what they think their grade is. Students will learn that success comes from tracking that metric.

Comment: I want to reiterate what another Faculty Senator said about tools that we don't have here as instructors as VSU. Some of the most innovative ed tools are software-based. If we have restrictions, we cannot use those tools for student engagement and student learning, and the students lose. I understand the IT policies but we need to acknowledge that AI is a big part of the future of work. We need to have control there.

Question: A follow-up. I think science and mathematics is working on building a computational lab. Similar labs at other institutions have things like remote access, etc. We have to look into how to both make things safe and move quickly enough to keep up with changes in the field.

Sheri Noviello: We're already working on the computational lab.

Question: Has there been any collaboration with Valdosta on Demand to help students get to campus?

Don Green: I met with city leaders yesterday. We didn't talk about Valdosta on Demand. We will.

Question: I don't like some of the updates on D2L. Some students say it's confusing. I find it's confusing too. The layout is not the best. Do we have an option to change the layout, etc.?

Sheri Noviello: No. But seek out resources on campus (E-Learning, CELT) that provide help with using D2L.

Question: Regarding transportation. There are more students. It's been hard to find parking.

Don Green: You're right. I'm trying to balance the frustration of no parking with the revitalization of campus life. Work with Kai in SGA. We want to know what the most crucial needs are for our students.

Comment: Transportation and parking are a bigger issue for off-campus students.

Don Green: There are ways we can improve flow, but give us some time.

Comment: please read The Spectator.

Comment: Last year I served on the parking advisory committee. I know that certain parking decks are known to almost always have open spaces. The Sustella parking lot is always full of open spaces, but it's not in a great location. If there's a reliable means of getting from that parking deck to class buildings, we'd be better off.

Question: Can we get more bicycle racks? We can have racks for students to park their bikes. Or we can have community bicycles. It would help to reduce some of the hassle.

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) – Find agendas and minutes here:
<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php> – Donna Sewell

Donna Sewell:

- First academic committee meeting is scheduled for September 14th; September 8th is deadline to get materials to Academic Committee.
- Reminder: Associate Deans in each College are responsible for checking curriculum materials carefully, making sure pathways exist with blanket substitutions, and making sure students on older catalogs have a pathway forward.
- In need of someone from each department or college who is knowledgeable about the curriculum to attend the Academic Committee meeting.

- b) Committee on Committees (fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu) – Samantha Paul

Samantha Paul: Working on the long-term elections; thank you for your patience. If you have any questions, email Samantha Paul at sepaul@valdosta.edu

- c) Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Awaiting updates

Forrest Parker: committee will wait for a chair to be appointed.

- d) Faculty Grievance Committee (fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu) – Kristy Litster

Kristy Litster:

- Committee is going to work on making sure that VSU policies and USG policies line up.
- Meeting will be scheduled; goal is to have something ready for the November Faculty Senate meeting.

7) Standing Committee Reports

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

April Strevig: Scheduling first meeting and will have an update at the September or October Faculty Senate meeting.

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

Kelly Davidson: new chair will call meeting when she sees fit.

- c) Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – Sarah Jane Young

Sarah Jane Young: Nothing to report

- d) Human Capital Committee (fs-stand-hcc@valdosta.edu) – Catherine Bowers

Catherine Bowers: Nothing to report. Meeting will be scheduled this semester.

- e) Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) – Mitch Lockhart

Mitch Lockhart: Nothing to report. Meeting will be scheduled this semester.

- f) Environmental Issues (fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu) – Edris Brannen

Chia-Lynn Ho: nothing to report. Committee is working on tree restoration. Next meeting TBA.

- g) Faculty Scholarship (fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu) – Christine James

Christine James: committee has received a lot of faculty applications. Committee funded the first 17. Committee has \$120,000 to give out. If you need to reach Christine James, her phone number is 229-460-3349.

- h) Internationalization and Globalization (fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu) – Shelly Yankovskyy

Shelly Yankovskyy: First meeting will happen soon. Nothing else to report.

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

- Hanae Kanno is past chair.
- Committee has not met but will meet soon.

- j) Student Affairs (fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu) – Nathan Moates

Nathan Moates: Nothing to report. Will be reaching out to schedule first meeting.

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

Lynn Crump: Will reach out to committee to schedule a meeting and will report in September.

8) Unfinished Business

9) New Business

- a) **Special election** called for Faculty Senate Parliamentarian, September 24. Nominations are being accepted. Please email hnnguyen@valdosta.edu.
- b) **Conflict Management and Restorative Practice** Presentation – Rosalyn Martinez and Yvonne Le Roy-Landers

These will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

10) General Discussion

Question: Can we update faculty profiles on the department website? Is it possible for the school to update profiles?

Hoa Nguyen: We are addressing that. It is an ongoing project.

Question: Have the bylaws for each committee been sent to new chairs?

Hoa Nguyen: We can send the bylaws.

11) Adjournment

Will Wise: motion to adjourn.

Shelly Yankovskyy: second.

Ayes: 46. Nays: 0. Abstentions: 0.

Motion passes.

Reports and agenda items due to president: (hnnnguyen@valdosta.edu) by August 27th

At the request of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (fsec@valdosta.edu) any actions sent to the president: (hnnnguyen@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 (rwander@valosta.edu): September 17th

Next Faculty Senate meeting: September 24, 3:30 p.m.

Attachments

- A. Faculty Senate Calendar 2025-2026
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes 04-30-2026
- C. CMRP Presentation