



FACULTY SENATE

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

[Faculty Senate Meeting Recording 9-24-26.m4a](#)

[Faculty Senate Sign-in Sheet 9-24-26.pdf](#)

[Faculty Senate Proxy Sign-in Sheet 9-24-26.pdf](#)

Faculty Senate

September 24, 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

Hoa Nguyen calls meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

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).

- **Lynn Crump** proxying for **Mary Beth Rousseau**
- **Haley Sherman** proxying for **Kristin Kirchner**
- **Shantanu Chakraborty** proxying for **Martha Leake**
- Any additional proxies present have signed in on proxy list linked at the top of this document.
- **Hoa Nguyen**: Please note that proxies vote for faculty senate member for whom they are proxying. If you are a faculty senator *and* proxying for another senator, you vote twice, once for yourself, and once for the faculty senator for whom you're proxying.

- a) Please send an email for the September 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 August 20, 2026, meeting of the Faculty Senate.**

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

- **Chalise Ludlow:** Motion to approve minutes of the August 20, 2026 meeting of the Faculty Senate
- **Jay Rickman:** second motion to approve minutes of the August 20, 2026 meeting of the Faculty Senate

51 Ayes. 0 Nays. 0 abstentions. Minutes of the August 20, 2026, meeting of the Faculty Senate are approved.

4) President's Report – Hoa Nguyen

Hoa Nguyen: President Green is away at a conference; he sends a message letting us know that he is not able to be here; please email any questions for him to Faculty Senate President, Hoa Nguyen.

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

Sheri Noviello:

- Don Green asked me to make some announcements on his behalf. Colette Wheeler has been working as a communications person with Communications and Marketing; Don Green is pulling her out of Communications and Marketing and she will work in the President's Office. Communications and Marketing is being relieved of duties beyond communication and marketing.
- Remember the graduation message that we need to tell students; keep telling students the graduation message. Note the signs around campus that tell students how many credits are necessary to graduate on time.
- An update on the provost search: Don Green is meeting with four stakeholders across campus. Dates are not yet known for these stakeholder meetings. Faculty and faculty senators are not required to attend meetings. Don Green is interested to know what we want in our next Provost. The search will not be completed by January 2027. Dana Nichols will be the Interim Provost starting in January 2027. Dana Nichols served under Don Green at Georgia Highlands College.
- We need to beef up our reputation in the system office, and Dana Nichols' presence at VSU is an opportunity for us to beef up our reputation in the system office.
- Any questions? (No questions from Faculty Senate)

- Goal is for search to be done and for start date of July 1. Dana will only be here while the search is happening and until someone else is found.
- Midterm grades were required for term A for all classes for the first time. Reporting percentage was 100%. Thank you for your hard work to make that happen.
- Reminder that due date for regular term midterm grades is coming up on October 7.
- We're working on making grade entry a bit easier. It's going to cost money but we're doing it.
- Don't forget to submit early reports about students you're worried about. Someone asked what happens to early alerts at our last meeting. Sheri asked Lauren McCullough, and she's working on 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) – Find agendas and minutes here: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php> – Donna Sewell

Donna Sewell: At the first Academic Committee meeting:

- We approved two academic recovery classes with 0 credit hours.
- Revisions were approved for the BA in Interdisciplinary Studies and the BA in History.
- An internship course was approved in Psychology.
- Revisions were approved for several tracks for the BS in Geosciences as well as two new courses in that major.
- Academic Committee reviewed the determination of credit hours for courses policy.
- All the information you need on any of this is available on the Academic Committee webpage.
- A few reminders: materials for the next Academic Committee meeting are due Monday, Sept. 28, to Karen Shepard. These will need to have been approved by the Department, the College, and, for graduate classes, by the Graduate Executive Committee. Feel free to send those; earlier is better.
 - Next academic committee meeting is Oct. 5.
 - Associate Deans are the curriculum experts within each College to help you with those forms.
 - Please remember that you may want to get academic advisors involved in making sure there are no problems with the curriculum proposals and to make sure that we have plans in place for continuing students as well as students under the new curriculum.
 - If you have materials coming before the Academic Committee, please have a knowledgeable representative attend the meeting.

- Our last academic committee meeting is in March this year.

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

Samantha Paul: We are still working on getting vacancies filled on standing committees. The roster has been updated on the website. If you have any updates, let Samantha know. We will start working on editing groups in Outlook to match what is on the website.

Hoa Nguyen: thank you, Samantha, for your work. There are lots of moving pieces; thank you for your work.

Question: where is the list of Senator Committee assignments?

Samantha Paul: there are multiple pages of roster information on the website.

Faculty Senator: There has been confusion about which Committees I am on, and it seems that there is confusion about where that information is.

Samantha Paul: there are ten pages of committee assignments uploaded to the website. All information should be there. The Committee on Committees was delayed because of College realignments. Are we able to see all that information now?

2 Faculty Senators: yes.

Hoa Nguyen: we recently changed out the old roster and just posted the new one. There are a lot of missing puzzle pieces. The roster just got uploaded last night. We had to wait for reorganization and elections. Thank you for your patience.

c) Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Hanae Kanno

Hanae Kanno: No report. Committee meeting will happen soon.

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

Kristy Litster: No updates at this time.

7) Standing Committee Reports

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

April Strevig: We have not met yet; we are still figuring out who all of our members are.

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

Krishnapriya Kottakkal: Nothing to report.

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: We are in the process of setting a meeting for the fall semester.

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

Mitch Lockhart: We now have an updated roster and will review bylaws. Committee members can expect an email from Mitch Lockhart.

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

Edris Brannen: No updates at this time.

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

Christine James: We were working very early because of faculty who needed to travel in, say, August. The Committee is currently doing September voting for 30 people who applied. Monica Close is helping. Five people need to be able to travel before this week. Those five people were given expedited voting. This is an extra burden for Monica. Thank you to Monica. Thank you, everyone, for your patience.

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

Shelley Yankovskyy: We had our first meeting on 9/14. We discussed quite a few things. The important points are:

- Dr. Park updated us on the King Sejong Institute in Valdosta; things are going well with the Institute.
- Recent changes for international students: there has been a change in curricular practical training. This has to do with international students doing internships and similar things. Now international students can only do such things if those activities are part of their academic program. All off-campus experiential learning is not allowed unless it is already a part of their course of study. There are other issues about whether international students can change their major and other matters. International students don't have a dedicated advisor. Irina McClellan is the person in international programs who knows this stuff very well.

- i) Library Affairs (fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu) – Awaiting Confirmation

Samantha Paul: No report.

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

Nathan Moates: Nothing to report. We are planning to have a meeting in October; we will review Committee bylaws at that meeting.

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

Lynn Crump: The Committee met yesterday afternoon.

- We reviewed the Committee bylaws. No changes at this time.
- There was question at the last Faculty Senate meeting about the ease or difficulty of downloading new software. Cathy Sowa asks that you submit a solutions ticket. The idea is to minimize cyberattack potential and other security issues.
- There is a new lab in the College of Science and Mathematics for faculty research; there was a question about remote access to computers at the last Faculty Senate meeting; IT is working on a process so that all faculty can access those computers remotely.

8) Unfinished Business

Hoa Nguyen: We have the Faculty Senate Parliamentarian to appoint. Dr. Rodney Gaines was nominated. Any nominations from the floor?

John Lairsey: motion to close nominations.

Jay Rickman: second motion to close nominations.

Hoa Nguyen: Faculty Senators, please vote, and then we will collect and count the votes.

9) New Business

Hoa Nguyen: We want to make some announcements:

- We talked earlier about the roster being updated; it's on the website. If you have any questions at all, please reach out to Hoa Nguyen or Samantha Paul.
- We worked with Michael Black to receive current number of lecturers and professors in each College. With that data, we recalculated the distribution of faculty within the Faculty Senate. We want to ensure fair distribution of workload and Faculty Senate representation, and that no College has less than two Faculty Senators. Based on data from Michael Black, we readjusted the numbers and emailed those readjusted numbers to College Deans. College Deans have been notified of their options for adjusting and filling seats in the Faculty Senate, and have been notified, per Faculty Senate bylaws, before Nov. 1.
- The most updated bylaws have been sent out to Committees. Thank you to Susan Boddie for her work on making this happen.
- Any questions? (No questions.)

a) **Special election** - Faculty Senate Parliamentarian.

- i. Dr. Rodney Gaines – nominated.
- ii. Nominations from the floor.

Election results: 45 votes for Rodney Gaines. 2 abstentions. Rodney Gaines voted into Parliamentarian position.

10) General Discussion

Faculty Senator: I looked over other USG institutions that are beginning to use a market adjustment. All USG institutions have adjusted salaries since 2022-23. From 2019 onwards Human Resources started to implement pay adjustments. Human Resources might be able to start implementing salary adjustments?

Sheri Noviello: VSU has gone through many years of budget cuts. There were studies of faculty and staff salaries. The system has started to look into salary adjustments across the system. Right now the system is trying to standardize titles across USG institutions. We recently looked at reclassifying a staff member on campus; Human Resources' suggested title equated to X salary. But if you took the same title at a state institution, you'd think it would be slightly lower at the state institution. Turns out that's not the case. The system is trying to make titles more equitable across institutions. At research institutions you can expect higher salaries for faculty and administrators. Also sometimes geography accounts for salary differences. We need to try to attempt to be competitive. We would need to find funding to support salary adjustments. We probably need to look into "unlocking value" in order to work toward salary adjustments.

Faculty Senator: can we have Michael Black come to each faculty senate meeting to update us on progress in salary adjustments?

11) Adjournment

Bradley Sowell: motion to adjourn

Jay Rickman: second.

Ayes: 51. Nays: 0. Abstentions: 0.

Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

Reports and agenda items due to president: (hnnguyen@valdosta.edu) by September 17th.

At the request of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (fsec@valdosta.edu) any actions sent to the president: (hnnguyen@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: October 15, 3:30 p.m.

Attachments

- A. Faculty Senate Calendar 2025-2026
- B. Faculty Senate Minutes 08-20-2026