



FACULTY SENATE
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Chunlei Liu
President

Benjamin Harper
**Vice President/
President Elect**

Mallory Lane
Secretary

Melissa Pihos
Parliamentarian

Michele Blankenship
Past President

**Faculty Senate Minutes
January 19, 2023, 3:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams**

Follow this [link](#) to join the meeting, or copy and paste the link below into your browser:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YjE4NmRmY2MtNWnkMi00ZDM3LTlmODYtNTM4OTBmMDBmOTgx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2225a5d340-8abc-4053-b4bd-dc1213280353%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22737798bd-c63b-40ae-8dd3-e9e8c724a4da%22%7d

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

Special Request: At the request of the Senate's Executive Committee (fsec@valdosta.edu), any actions sent to the president (cliu@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 as a Word.doc attachment(s).

For the benefit of record keeping, we ask that senators and visitors please identify themselves when speaking to an issue during the meeting. Please use the microphones to assist with accurate recording. All senators must sign the roster in order to be counted present. If you have a senator's proxy, please place their name tag beside your name tag on the table in front of you.

1. Call to Order – Chunlei Liu
2. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Mallory Lane

Note: Please send an email to Mallory Lane (bmbarmore@valdosta.edu) 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 November 17, 2022 meeting of the Faculty Senate.** <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php> (See link here for minutes for all faculty senate meetings). – Melissa Pihos
Motion by Chalise Ludlow; Second Xiaoai Ren; Approved 43 No abstentions or opposition.

4. Updates from President's Office: Dr. Carvajal and/or Dr. Smith

President Carvajal:

We have a lot to share and hopefully this is all information that you'll find useful. I'm going to start simply by thanking everyone for everything you've done as we've kicked off the spring semester, I see a lot of happy students walking around as they are excited to be back. Thank you for your hard work getting ready for the term and for kicking it off. It's at the beginning of the term every year that I certainly the question I get asked the most is what's our enrollment looking like. Clearly, we watch that very, very closely. I'll tell you that historically what we look for is what percentage of the fall enrollment numbers do we bring back for spring term and our trend line on that is that our spring enrollment has historically been on average 92%. Our fallen enrollment now obviously you know that our enrollment has been declining the last couple of semesters. So, we have not been hitting those goal numbers. It's certainly something that we were watching with anticipation to see how we would do this semester. Now, I'm pleased to tell you that at this point in time (that is compared with the same time last year and before our drop for nonpayment), we are at 93% of our fall enrollment. Our goal has been to steady enrollment and we are doing well on that and certainly a reason again to say thanks to everyone for helping us do that and accomplish that goal. Now part of that success comes from a variety of reasons. One of those is our growing success of the eDegree. As of today's enrollment report, we have 799 students that are in a degree and for those of you who are keeping track, that is up 103% from this time last year. Now that said, we are at 93% today and the numbers look good compared to where we have been. We are going monitor this very closely and particularly as we move through the drop. There has been a group of people working this week very, very hard on trying to get us through the drop period with the fewest number of students being affected. A huge, huge thank you to that group for the work that they have been putting in. It absolutely makes a difference, but we will continue to watch this again, the news right now at least is certainly very encouraging.

Next Dr. Carvajal gave an update on the legislative session - I want to talk about the start of the legislative session that that took place last week and this is important for us on a number of fronts, but certainly one big reason is this is where we get our budget. The session began last week, it began with the release of the governor's budget and I want to make sure we understand how this process works for those that are new to it. The governor at the beginning of the legislative session each year releases what is a recommended budget. Then the General Assembly does its work. Throughout the session. They'll make changes to it, adding to it, taking away and, and none of it becomes final until the General Assembly passes a joint budget between the House and the Senate, and the governor signs in. That will probably happen sometime in April or early May. Now, we get a really good first look at what the budget might be when the governor releases its budget. Now the state Senate is in an advantageous situation. The economy is roaring, it's doing great and that means tax revenues have been up. Even in the year 2020 when we had the government shutdown, our year over year tax revenue was higher than in 2019 and it certainly continued to go up in 2021 and 2022. That means is that we got a lot of money sitting in the bank, 6 billion to be exact in reserves and the governor decided that it was time to spend some of that. The governor wants to return some of the surplus to the taxpayers. He made three pretty significant announcements last week that should affect many of you. First off, you will recall that at the end of the General Assembly session and the governor signing last year's budget in May, all state employees and all US employees got a \$5000 flat increase to their salary on the heels of that, he has proposed a \$2000 increase this year. On top of that, he has proposed a \$1 billion income tax rebate. If you have been paying Georgia income tax, you're likely (assuming this is all passed by the General Assembly and ultimately sign) looking at some type of rebate on your income tax. Lastly, he proposed a \$1.2 billion property tax rebate. If you own property in the state of Georgia, again, you're probably looking at some kind of check coming in the mail. All good news, all reasons to be excited and happy (if approved and signed). Beyond that, we are certainly thanking the governor and his team for proposing the legislative process that is also critical

to VSU and all of us because where we get our operating dollars. Yesterday morning (Thursday January 18, 2023) Chancellor Purdue spoke in front of the General Assembly to give a hearing on our USG budget. He used quite frankly language and showed information related to challenges that that we are facing in the USG related to budget that honestly, I haven't seen in my 12 years in the system as a president. I was really encouraged. I was really pleased by what I heard. He noted that the USG funding formula dates back to the early 1980s. And while there have been multiple attempts since then to change it, it has not happened. He certainly was laying the groundwork for the idea that it was time for a change. He addressed the question had been on the minds of the public. Why does higher Ed cost so much? He offered several reasons for that, gave quite a bit of detail on what our labor costs including the cost of living increases. He talked about how our utility costs are up. He also noted the many things that we do now that we didn't do previously. Things like public safety. There was a time when a public safety unit on a on a college university campus was an unarmed security force that walked around opening and closing doors. We are clearly way beyond that. With a certified police force with full capability, IT security has become such a big piece and a very costly piece that every entity. Like us, every institution has to be involved in supporting the mental health of our students. A huge effort that did not exist a couple of decades ago. He listed those and quite a few others, things that have changed. And our landscape that have certainly impacted our costs and then he went to what has the state support been for higher education over the last couple of decades. Now if you go back about 20 years at that time, the cost of a student's education - 75% of it was paid for by the state and the student paid 25% of that cost. A couple of years ago, instead of a 75/25 split it got as low as a 47/53 split. The good news is, it's come back a little bit as of right now, it's 57/43. Why did it go up? Well, it went out because of the elimination of the special institutional fee and the replacement of state funding or that purpose as well as last year's cola. But the chancellor reminded the members of the General Assembly that those were passed through dollars, they're passed through our students and to our employees. These are very, very good things because they did not impact our operating budgets, which are still very, very strained. In fact, he gave an example. The salary increase that we, that we were able to offer everyone last year (again \$5000 across the board for every employee), we got \$87 million of state funding to support that salary increase. But because there are a host of employees that are not covered as part of that grant, employees funded through fees and the like, the total cost of implementing that salary increase was \$101 million. Where did that difference come? Well, we hate it. We ate it in the university system. We ate it here at VSU. It was a de facto budget reduction. So, he told them that while we're thrilled and very thankful of their desire to give us a \$2000 increase this year, unless they make a change again it absorbing that change would be a de facto budget reduction to our operating cost, something we've taken time and time again. Then, he talked about how in the USG, we have used what he called sort of a Robin Hood principle that we have had institutions that have gone up and enrollment and therefore gone up in allocation. Well, we've had institutions that have gone down and enrollment and therefore down in allocation and we sort of borrowed from the gainers to support those who were seeing declines. But this next year, there's most of the institutions are decliners and so there will not be enough money to support those who lost. Using a PowerPoint slide, he showed them by institution what it looks like and again they could see that the vast majority of schools based upon the way the allocation is set up would be losers in the formula and then he specifically asked them do you really want your local institution to be cut like this which was again, very strong language. I was very appreciative. I think everybody who is involved should be very appreciative. It's something we will be actively continue to follow going forward. This is a long cycle, but I thought it was very important that you all know. I apologize for the longer than normal presentation, but again, I hope that was useful information.

Dr. Smith:

It is a pleasure to welcome you back to spring semester. I I only have one item that I would like to discuss this afternoon and that is many of you already know that we have for years, in fact, all of the

eight years that I've been in the university system of Georgia had to report annually to the Board Office on programs that produce low number of graduates. That is defined by the board at present to be programs that if you average over the previous the previous three years are producing. If they're undergraduate programs, fewer than 10 graduates a year, if it's a master's program, if you're in the five year, and if it's a doctoral program, fewer than three a year. The board has been asking for more detail about what we are doing to change those programs to change that dynamic to restructure the programs, change the curricula or to eliminate the programs and we have, we have done all of those things. We do it in a as a matter of course there's any number of programs that we have phased out in the last few years. However, this spring we are beginning on a program called program prioritization, where we are looking at all of our low producing programs and those that are moderate producing that is those that are just above those thresholds. Our new Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs has said that he believes those thresholds are very low. And while we've reviewed these for some years, in particular we've done so during every five-year program review. This is the first time we have done this in a more comprehensive manner. You will certainly see this and hear this from your department heads, if any of your programs are on those lists. And one of the things we are Continuing to operate those programs that are low, producing it, if whether there's costs are continue to still be worth it and whether we would be better.

Dr. Carvajal Additional Report:

I talked a lot about state budget, but if you didn't see the Valdosta Daily Times, there's some really good federal news to share. We got this over the holiday. I was literally standing in the grocery store line when I looked down and saw I was getting a phone call from Raphael Warnock who was calling to tell us that we had been included in the budget. In actions that that was being authorized by Congress, we got \$750,000 in an earmark coming directly to Valdosta State. This is to support the growth of the E degree elementary education program, particularly the Para-Pro piece of that where pair pros working in rural school districts already have the opportunity to complete their degree. That would not have happened. I can tell you without support on both sides of the aisle. Congressman Buddy Carter got very involved in this really kind of drove it on the front end. And then our two senators got involved and got it across the finish line. So huge, huge. Thank you to them. Great, great news for VSU and ultimately for our ability to impact teacher add in rural Georgia.

There were no questions from the gallery.

5. Faculty Senate Bylaws updates – Ben Harper

I have spoken with Dr. Gravett about how committees were structured within the bylaws and how that related to the revision and the VSU statutes. As we covered in November, the VSU statutes eliminated the statutory committee language, and the Faculty Senate section of the statutes, is much more abbreviated than it used to be. plan right now is to submit language within the next two weeks to faculty Senate Executive Committee for approval to put on the February meeting, and that language will basically include taking the statutory committees and not calling them statutory committees anymore, but calling them permanent committees within the bylaws just having a separate mechanism to modify, add and remove those committees. Right now, we are considering a 2/3 majority vote by faculty Senate membership by senators. If we were going to remove, add or change any of those permanent committees. Our standing committees would remain unchanged. It would just require a simple majority to modify, change or remove those committees. And I would be appreciative if any of you have ideas on how to approach this particular topic. You're welcome to send me an e-mail within the next couple of days as I kind of draft some language to start shopping around and getting feedback on, and hopefully I will have something concrete and

substantive for you in the e-mail that comes out the week before our February faculty Senate meeting.

6. Tenure and Promotion Task Force – Sheri Gravett and Michele Blankenship

The committee met last on December 2nd and we were planning to meet again tomorrow morning. We do have a draft of the VSU tenure and promotion guidelines and processes with some suggested updated language, which we will review 1/20/2023. Most of the changes are relatively minor and are in section three of the document, which is looking at the university wide standards for tenure and promotion. Hopefully after that meeting, we'll be able to share some of what we have been doing more widely with the faculty community and get further feedback. We are still aiming to bring a draft proposal to the faculty Senate at the March meeting, with a vote, hopefully in April.

7. Old & Unfinished Business

a. Statutory Committee Reports

- i. Academic Committee (fs-stat-ac@valdosta.edu) – Sheri Gravett; Find agendas and minutes here:

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>

The Academic Committee had its first meeting of the year on the first day of class. I thank everyone who showed up on a very busy day. This is our busy season of the year. We approved a number of new items including a new non-thesis track for the master's degree in biology.

We also updated our bylaws. We took out is the word statutory. We updated the number of members to accommodate the restructuring of the colleges a few years ago. We discussed the changes in November and approved the changes at January's meeting.

Dr. Gravett reminded everyone that the new catalogs are published in Mid-May. If you have curricular items that are coming forward, please make sure they get along. We will meet again in February on February 13th and the March meeting is kind of early cause we have spring break that second week in March (March 6th). So please, if you've got curricular items, please send them along as quickly as you can.

- ii. Committee on Committees (fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu) – Emma Kostopolus

The committee is working on getting ready for next year's elections. Please let your Dean know if you want to serve on a particular committee or if you want to change the committees that you are currently on.

- iii. Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Xiaoai Ren

The Faculty Affairs Committee we met on 1/17/2023 via TEAMS and we had a follow-up email discussion about following the chain of command when dealing with student concerns, complaints and grievance. Over fall semester, we received some concerns from faculty members that students were not following the chain of command with grievances. We look at the policy on the VSU website, the policy is student concerns complaint and the grievance policy that is currently listed under academic policies and procedures from the office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. We also look at the other policies that mentioned the similar process, which include grade appeal policy and the student called of conduct documents. They included similar description of this chain of command starting from the faculty member go to the department head and then college Dean or Dean of student success and all the way to Provost and the President. We wish to recommend that the higher level administrators, if the student has skipped the chain of command, send the reporting student back down the chain. It is also important that the administrator not

make any comment or weigh-in on the issue. Our committee wants to state that as an education institution, it is important for us to model workplace behaviors for our students. We should model how they should solve conflict, workplace conflict or concerns it. It is really important that they follow the chain of command and then so we want to ask your help to distribute the word and the second is we want to recommend to faculty members to carefully document your process if you have to deal with this. We want to ask should we add language in the policy that alerts students as to consequences for not following the chain of command?

Dr. Smith commented that it is a complicated process. In general, the university follows the policy as described. When a student calls his office, the first question is has the student spoken with the department head or with the Dean before they get to talk to me and I and I believe that the Deans do the same things. There are always exceptions to the rule. if a student is very distraught, very upset about something, and/or feels like there will be some repercussions, we want to make sure the student has an outlet. For the most part, I will not talk to the student unless they have already talked to the department head or the Dean unless there are extenuating circumstances or if there is some sense of urgency. Dr. Smith wanted to make sure that it was clear that the chain of command is very important.

iv. Faculty Grievance Committee (fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu) – Mary Block
The by-laws draft will be sent out to the committee for comments soon.

b. Meeting minutes from the various 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:

- i. Technology_Minutes_04-29-2022
- ii. Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2021

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

8. New Business

a. Standing Committee Reports:

- i. Academic Honors & Scholarships (fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu) – Lindsay Godin (Yakov Woldman for Lindsay Godin)
we did remote voting for the GLARDA award for the 2023 nominations and 13 out of 15 committee members voted and we nominated the student Darshi Patel to win the GLARDA award for 2023. We are planning to meet to get started on the Annie Powe Hopper Award. You will be receiving an e-mail from me so you can submit student nominations. Then, we are going to start organizing the Honor Center event.

Chunlei Liu had a question. Do you make any recommendation for the future years?

Answer: We need to discuss it with the registrar and I think that from now on the short semester probably should be 15 teaching days.

- ii. Academic Scheduling & Procedures (fs-stand-asp@valdosta.edu) – Yakov Woldman
I sent the note a couple days ago to the Executive Committee about the changes needed for Juneteenth Holiday. Since the schedule for summer 2023 has already been set, we suggest that faculty who are teaching these classes should have some extra time either online or face to face to compensate for this.

- iii. Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – Kyoung-Im Park
No report.
- iv. Diversity and Equity Committee (fs-stand-dec@valdosta.edu) – Donna Sewell
No report.
- v. Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) – Can Denizman
No report.
- vi. Environmental Issues (fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu) – Clell Wright
No report.
- vii. Faculty Scholarship (fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu) – Attila Cseh

- Faculty Scholarship policies, procedures, and update.

Our next meeting will be on 1/23/2023. The vice-president's office has informed us that we will be running out of money with this meeting. We currently have 26 applications just in this round. I encourage you to let your colleagues know that we may not be able to have money for future proposals.

I also want to talk about a complaint file against the committee and John Lee asked me to explain the procedures to hopefully have future applicants and proposals. Vice President Smith addressed us and charged us with going through each application with a fine-tooth comb, so to speak, and which meant to us that we are not just a rubber stamp committee. But we have to look at each application carefully. The process that we have been using is as follows. We go through every single application and we vote on every single one of them. Whenever we have questions or something is not clear, then we ask the applicant some clarifying questions and then we discussed that at the next meeting.

I do have some suggestions that hopefully some of you will find helpful. First, make sure that you submit the application for travel as soon as possible. Obviously, we have a very limited budget and as we run out of money then we will not be able to fund the proposals. The largest number of denials happened because of submission after the conference after travel. The second suggestion is to explain everything really clearly and keep in mind that the audience members that you are writing to have degrees in other fields and we do not necessarily understand everything that is common in the field. Therefore, any information is really helpful and we ask for generous information to be provided on these applications. The third suggestion is that please reach out to your member of the committee. Hopefully your field is represented, or at least every college is represented. If your field is not, then reach out to your college representative and ask for comments. Make sure that they understand what the application is about and explain to them the importance and the relevance. There are colleges whose scholarly activities are obviously different from what we think of as the mainstream.

Comment from Dr. Smith:

I just wanted to comment on the budget availability. This year, we reduced the allocation to \$100,000 which is 20-25% above what we actually spent last year. It is a very difficult

budget year as you all now, I'm going to see if we can add some more funds in because we do certainly put a very high priority on scholarship.

Attila Cseh:

I really appreciate it Doctor Smith, but I just want to say that probably one of the reasons why we have so much more being spent this year is because the last year might have been a little bit off because of the pandemic effect. And now the now the conferences are coming back.

Dr. Smith:

We also expected that there might be some pent-up demand and maybe that's what's playing out right now. We will see if we can we can improve that situation.

Linda Most:

To respond to the funding question, it might be worth looking at five years of expenditures in this grant so that you get a pre pandemic sense of how much was being spent. Because I would definitely agree with Attila that yes, track the pent-up demand that Dr. Smith is mentioning. This is going to throw your numbers off if you don't look at the longer view. Maybe do a study of five years' worth of awards by semester just to see what has been spend. My question is how are you scoring these applications? Do you have a rubric? Do you have a checklist? Yes, it's great to bring in the department or at the worst college member who can speak on behalf of the nature of the research that is conducted in that department. But beyond that is there any kind of actual scoring instrument that you're using now that you've been asked to do that?

Attila Cseh:

To be honest with you, we are not using any scoring instrument. It is just based on everybody's own opinion, whether they find the specific application in question.

Linda Most:

If this is becoming a competitive situation then you have to come up with criterion to even playing field. You need a way to score these applications going forward. That is my recommendation to the committee.

Attila Cseh:

I will bring it up at the next committee meeting.

Steven Downey:

Thank you for arranging this and thank you for chairing the committee. We know it's a lot of work. I want to mirror what Linda just said with regard to having some sort of scoring mechanism or rubric because what we have seen out of the first few months (the fall semester) is an inconsistency on how the applications are being handled. I can very quickly give you 4 applications that I know of that are all handled differently. First was a solo conference presentation. The other three were conference presentations that were collaborative presentation. My concern lies with faculty doing collaborative project with students, other faculty, and persons outside of the university. Those applications are being handled differently than the solo applicant. They are not on an even playing field. All three of the collaborative projects were done with students and other faculty members. All three students are full time employees and professional educators, so they can't just pick up and travel anytime they wish. In one instance, the student was able to take off and attended the

presentation and co-delivered in person. The other two instances the students were unable to travel because of their jobs, and the faculty member presented on behalf of the entire group. In the last two instances, the faculty member was not presenting under their name only, everybody's name was listed. Nobody was claiming this work as their own. All of the presentations with collaborators were asked additional information in regards to the role of the person in the project. Question two was, what was the nature of the committee makeup cause this particular one that was asked was from a dissertation and these are derivative works that were produced. The third question was, was the student or other collaborators going to be at the conference? The person with the sole authorship was not given any of those questions. Their paper was just accepted, processed and award was made. The other three had to go through additional justifications that the sole authorship did not have to go through. Of those three, the one with the student in attendance was eventually approved. But, the delay resulted in the person being taxed on the reimbursement. Of the remaining two, one was approved and one was declined even though they were the exact same scenario, joint application with a student and the student was unable to attend. This has resulted in confusion among faculty. If collaborative scholarship is going to be held to a different set of standards. It is going to impact the work we do with our students. If collaborative scholarship is going to be held to a different set of standards. It is going to impact the work we do with our students and the student success that is mandated by the Board of Regents as part of our Tenure & Promotion responsibilities. These new guidelines should be put in place and vetted to ensure that they treat everybody equally. The rubric should be vetted through the Faculty Senate but at the very least through the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to ensure that the applications are handled equally. Once they are reviewed, they should be published on the website and distributed to the VSU faculty distribution list. My suggestion is to get the criterion completed during spring 2023 so that faculty will know what to expect in the fall 2023. This will help guide faculty, especially those submitting collaborative works.

Attila Cseh:

I will definitely bring it up at the next committee meeting. Let me just say something about that where the faculty had to pay taxes on the reimbursement. I don't want to shift the blame and pass the ball. But that application, if I think of the same thing that you are mentioning without naming names, was submitted on time in August. But it fell through the cracks and it did not get to the committee until two or three months later. So, it was out of our control. Once clarification was received, the application was accepted. I'm very sorry that it got to that point a little bit too late. As for the collaborative work, I will definitely bring it up at the next committee meeting and we will try to clarify what we expect and at least make suggestions to the Senate or the Executive Committee of the Senate.

Steven Downey:

That would be a great help, because the faculty simply need to know what are the criteria they are going to be held to so that they can plan for it. And, they can make sure that they follow whatever the new guidelines are. It would be a great help if you can publish what those things are going to be and ensure everybody's going to be handled equally.

Yakov Woldman:

I have two questions. So first about submitting application as soon as possible. I would like to do that, but I rarely get an approval of the submission from the conference earlier than two or three weeks before the conference. That makes these two requirements be in contradiction with each other. That is the reason why I cannot submit my application any earlier than about three weeks before the conference. It used to be, a few years ago, that for attending international conferences, the award was \$2000. Now it shrinks to \$1000, which doesn't lower the expenses. The expenses are still the same which means I am paying the rest out of pocket. Will there be any allowance for international conferences? Or is this the new reality?

Attila Cseh:

Let me let me make a comment on the first one and I'm going to punt the ball on the second one. What is really important for your particular case is that you submit before the travel. If you submit before you travel, it will be reviewed and maybe we will review it after your conference. But if we approve, then you will be able to reimburse so it just has to happen in that three-week window that you are talking about. As far as the amount, we are we would love to give you \$5000 but we do not have the funds. I am going to ask Dr. Smith if he has any comments.

Dr. Smith:

That \$1000 cap from that fund was my doing. A year and a half ago, we had very extensive discussions at the Deans Council about how we're going to continue funding because we have been cutting budgets, as you all know, and we decided that the cap on the Faculty Scholarship Fund would be \$1000 should be reasonable point of demarcation because faculty can also get funds from their department and Deans (in some cases). I am open to discussion, but you must realize this is a zero-sum game. If we increase the amount, we will decrease the number of projects that we can fund travel.

Attila Cseh:

We should be able to make a an average because I've noticed that even within the US, travel expenses have gone up quite substantially. If you go to a Georgia conference, it's going to cost around \$700- 800 based on the average. But if you go out of state, it's going to cost \$2000 easy based on the applications that I see.

Chunlei Liu:

I think we should go back to the 2000 cap at some point.

Dr. Smith:

I am happy to look at what, what actual averages have been. But again, if we do decide to increase that CAP, it's going to reduce the number of trips that we can support. In our thinking, this is only a portion of the funding that's available since there are funding available in other budgets as well.

Linda Most:

With this discussion, it sounds like we might be moving in to a more competitive situation. That makes your scoring of the applications even more crucial. All disciplines need to be included in the conversation since each discipline has factors that need to be included into your evaluation process. This will ensure that all the disciplines across the institution that

request funding have some say in how their conference structures work, whether the nature of the research is mostly collaborative, mostly solo, whether it's performance, scholarly or creative activity. We need to ensure that all are treated equally since the processes are evolving. Travel is more expensive. Promotional expectations are higher. And student success is now wrapped up into some of the collaborative research, which may not be the case in all departments. I just really want to make a plea to you that if you do come up with and it sounds like you need to come up with a scoring mechanism for these proposals, all the disciplines have some input. You may need to setup a subcommittee to do that work.

Attila Cseh:

We recognize the fact that different disciplines are doing things differently and some are out of luck to be honest with you because they may have the main conference in April or even may June, which is by that time we are easily out of money. it's a delicate balancing act and we are dealing with strong constraints.

Steven Downey:

I am quite willing to put in the time to help write whatever criteria we need going forward because of if I am going to whine about it, I need to put in the hours to the help, make sure that we have works and is balanced.

Xiaoai Ren:

I have a quick question for Dr. Smith. Since we received the same concern about the chain of command issue two semesters in a row, we want to follow up with the faculty member and give them some reassurance, How can we address the faculty's concerns?

Dr. Smith:

It depends on exactly what the students complaining about and how you know how upset they are. And so, we exercise some judgment and I and I think you know that that you need to go back to those faculty and assure them that we we're not just sitting here taking complaints from students Willy Nilly because I want those things to follow through channels but we do exercise some discretion and when we think there is a reason. There is one other category, by the way, and that is hotline complaints. So, you may be aware that the university system of Georgia has a confidential hotline system. When those calls impact Valdosta State University, they go to the auditor, Heidi Cox, and she has a committee that reviews those. Hotline complaints from students and those do go directly to my office. And then we decide, based on the specifics, what we are doing with them, so that's a little bit different process.

Xiaoai Ren:

I would just go back to them and tell them trust our higher order administrators handle the issue with careful discretion.

Dr. Smith:

At the end of the at the end of the day, I do not see that there is a problem. It is rare that a complaint does not come up through the channel. It is pretty rare.

- viii. Internationalization and Globalization (fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu) – Hanae Kanno
No report at this time. and I plan to hold the internationalization Globalization Committee meeting in the beginning of February and I will send out the e-mail about the next meeting sometime next week.

- ix. Library Affairs (fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu) – Brian Ring
You probably saw an e-mail for the contingency fund for library. We have gotten a few applicants. If you would like any books to be ordered by the library, please apply. We will be looking at the application in a month or so.
- x. Student Affairs (fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu) – Laurel Yu (Report by Sebastian Bartos)
The Dining Hall committee met in December and once again in on January 10th with Shannon McGee, the Dining Hall committee has initiated a plan to submit to the USG regarding dining plans for students for fiscal year 2023. And a dining called committee is happy to report there are no planned increases as of now for dining plans for students. We should hear back from the USG in April if this plan of action has been approved.
- xi. Technology Committee (fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu) – Lynn Crump
There are no updates at this time.

9. General Discussion
No discussion

10. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Kristy Litster. Second: Yakov Y Woldman

Attachment A

Guidance for Online Meetings

During this exceptional time, all Faculty Senate meetings will be held online using Microsoft Teams. The information to connect will be sent over email. This is an open meeting.

To access the meeting easily, use the TEAMS link found in the email containing the agenda or through your calendar link (Outlook).

For the benefit of record keeping, we ask that senators and visitors please identify themselves when speaking to an issue during the meeting. Please note the following:

1. All senators must sign the roster in order to be counted present. We will be using an online roster which can be found by using this [link](#) (also copied below) on the day of the meeting. If you have a senator's proxy, please include this information using the online form, in addition to emailing Mallory Lane (bmbarmore@valdosta.edu) at least one week in advance as per Senate By-Laws.

Attendance link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/sj6fUvS0mT>

2. Given the new online format, the following points are very important for record-keeping and parliamentary rules:
 - a. If you would like to join the online discussion, use the "raise hand" feature. The Executive Committee will work to ensure that everyone is able to participate in a timely and organized manner. **Please do not use the chat function to pose questions unless otherwise directed due to technical difficulties by the meeting coordinator or IT.** Doing so can create confusion and timing for responses.
 - b. If you are not actively speaking, please mute your microphone in order to avoid feedback and/or background noise interruptions.
 - c. When a vote is called use the "raise hand" feature to vote. If you have a proxy, you will need to type the name and vote using the chat feature. Please keep in mind that the online function takes time. We will call for votes in one category and count "raised hands," then ask for proxies through the chat feature. After the votes have been officially counted, you will need to "lower your hand" so that we can call for votes in subsequent categories. Please only use the chat feature for proxy voting. We thank you for your patience as we accurately count all votes.

It is encouraged that all senators and possible attendees contact VSU IT to address any connection concerns before the meeting.