



FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Chairman
Ronald M. Zaccari

Vice Chairman
Louis Levy

Executive Secretary
David Boyd

Parliamentarian
Mike Meacham

Memorandum

To Ronald M. Zaccari, President
From David Boyd, Executive Secretary, Faculty Senate
Date July 1, 2004
Subject 2004 Annual Report of the Faculty Senate

Each Senate meeting of the academic year 2003-2004 began with opening remarks by the President (except for the one meeting when he was out of town) that kept the Senators up-to-date regarding activities concerning the campus. In each meeting, the minutes of the previous Senate meeting and the minutes of the Academic Committee were presented and approved, with no more than minor corrections. In addition, there were several major items presented for discussion to the Senate. The following is presented as a summary of those major activities of the Faculty Senate during the academic year 2003-2004:

1. Approved two new listservs for the campus and their policies of use: the Community Announcements Listserv and the Faculty Forum listserv. These were submitted by the Technology Committee.
2. Approved a statement that Faculty Senators should not occupy General Faculty seats on Statutory Committees. The Committee on Committees asked for such a statement to help them in overseeing committee assignments.
3. Approved a statement regarding the timely return of Student Evaluations. This statement was presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee. There will need to be continued study to eliminate the bottlenecks in the processing of these Student Evaluations.
4. Approved the Concise Mission Statement as submitted by the Institutional Planning Committee.

5. Approved a correction to the Summer 2004 calendar and the complete 2005-2006 Academic Calendar. These calendars were developed and presented by the Academic Scheduling and Procedures Committee.
6. Approved the inclusion of sexual orientation in the non-discriminatory clause of the VSU Equal Opportunity Statement as recommended by the Minority and Diversity Affairs Committee.
7. Approved a statement regarding legal aid for International Academics as presented by the Faculty Affairs Committee.
8. Elected Michael Meacham as Executive Secretary of the Senate for 2004-2005.

There was significant discussion on several items, which did not result in formal action by the Senate. Some of these, however, brought positive changes on the campus. These items are listed here:

1. The need for changing the titles for Teaching Assistants in the College of the Arts. The Faculty Affairs Committee has been working on this item.
2. The awarding of doctoral degrees to full-time faculty by their own Academic Department. The Educational Policies Committee has worked on this item, and has brought it to the Senate three times for discussion.
3. Students being required to purchase textbooks authored by the instructor-of-record for their class.
4. The disposing of desk copies and other complimentary educational materials by faculty members.

The actions of the Faculty Senate during the academic year 2002-2003 are indicative of the value of the *system of self-governance* prologue to the Mission Statement of the Valdosta State University.

The Faculty Senate convened seven times during the academic year 2003-2004. It is evident that many of the Senate committees were very active. Many of them have items that have been remanded to them, which they should address during the academic year 2004-2005. The *ad hoc* Committee on Commencement has been chaired by Robert Hull, and continued its discussions on improving the Commencement exercises. Robert Hull gave a report for this committee, and that report is included in the April 15, 2004, minutes of the Faculty Senate. The Standing Committees worked on updating their bylaws, and on items remanded to them. I also asked each standing committee to begin discussion regarding the impact the projected increase in enrollment will have on their committee responsibilities. Some of these committees have standing assignments, which they work on each year. Each Standing Committee has published its own annual report. These annual reports were published with the minutes of the April 2004, and May 2004 Faculty Senate meetings as cross-referenced in the table on the next page:

Committee Annual Report	Committee Chairman	Location in minutes
Academic Honors and Scholarships	Michael Stoltzfus	April 15, 2004
Academic Scheduling and Procedures	Susan Worth	May 20, 2004
Athletics	Chris Meyers	April 15, 2004
Educational Policies	Michael Schmidt	April 15, 2004
Environmental Issues	Cameron Whiting	April 15, 2004
Faculty Development and Research	Kerry Hinkle	May 20, 2004
Library Affairs	Michael Savoie	May 20, 2004
Minority and Diversity Affairs	James LaPlant	April 15, 2004
Student Activities	Iris Ellis	No report
Student Services	Robert Johnston	May 20, 2004
Technology	John Samaras	May 20, 2004

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