



FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Kelly Davidson
President

Michele Blankenship
**Vice President/
President Elect**

Hoa Nguyen
Secretary

Peggy Moch
Parliamentarian

Debbie Paine
Past President

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes January 21, 2021, 3:30 pm Online: MS Teams

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 (kfdavidson@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 see the online participation guide below. All senators must sign the online attendance roster order to be counted as present. If you are serving as a senator's proxy or are attending as a guest, please place a note in the chat feature if it has not already been sent to Dr. Hoa Nguyen (hnguyen@valdosta.edu), as specified below.

Attendance link here:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3DQNOIJbyKU0C0vdwSEyqDU4DGNC7nE4IBIELqpw2zy6BUQUVDSUdBR1JLN0xCOEUxRVMYRTVBTThWRS4u&data=02%7C01%7Ckfdavidson%40valdosta.edu%7C915f9f91bedb42b54c3c08d8504853db%7C25a5d3408abc4053b4bddc1213280353%7C0%7C0%7C637347618859330617&sdata=9sBRCiJJxSVI9VdpNEBuf4xoW5RbYI2mC1UU9d1cNg0%3D&reserved=0>

1. Call to Order – Kelly Davidson
 - a. Guidance for online meetings (Attachment A)
2. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting or through online attendance form; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Hoa Nguyen

Note: Please send an email to Hoa Nguyen (hnguyen@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 September 2020 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**
<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php> (See link here for minutes for all faculty senate meetings). – Peggy Moch
The minutes were approved with friendly amendments.

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

Dr. Smith:

Dr. Smith welcomed everyone back to the spring semester and thanked everyone for their hard work last term and the start of this semester. He noted the low incidences of COVID-19 last semester would not have been possible without the dedication of faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Smith highlighted the following information:

- 1. We are in the midst of two Dean searches. Yesterday, the first Dean candidate for the Langdale College of Business Administration came to campus. We have two candidates coming to campus next week and one the following week. Shortly after that, we will host four candidates for the Dean of Science and Math search. The open session and faculty session are open to faculty to attend. All sessions have limited in-person seating as well as livestream.**
- 2. The event Coffee with the Provost started two years ago. When the pandemic hit, we started to host this event virtually almost every week. The attendance has significantly increased despite not being able to provide coffee. All faculty are invited to Coffee with the Provost, and Dr. Smith encouraged all faculty to attend.**

Dr. Carvajal:

Dr. Carvajal thanked everyone for a successful semester last fall, as well as the efforts and energy put into preparing for this spring semester.

Dr. Carvajal gave the following updates:

- 1. Regarding the COVID numbers, we anticipated a jump in the numbers after returning to campus from the Winter break. Thus far, there has been a slight uptick in COVID numbers for mostly students and also faculty and staff. Though the uptick is not as significant in comparison to other institutions in the fall, the COVID taskforce has noted this increase. The taskforce will do their due diligence to keep tracking these trends in COVID numbers. This week, the numbers are on a downward trend, which means the plan we have in place is working to manage the COVID numbers.**
- 2. Regarding the enrollment numbers this spring, we have observed a 5% increase in comparison to last spring. Although this increase is not as high as the 10% in fall enrollment, Dr. Carvajal feel encouraged about our enrollment numbers. He also noted it was best to be more conservative with our budget last semester, since we were uncertain about the spring enrollment numbers.**
- 3. He thanked faculty for working with students, department head, and deans to create more opportunities for engagement in class and a class schedule that allowed for more face-to-face classes. The General Assembly has asked the system office for numbers of face-to-face classes vs online. VSU will have to produce the number of face-to-face classes this spring semester to the system office. There have been some complaints from students and parents about face-to-face classes being moved to an online environment on their own. These complaints, not specifically about VSU but more generally across the state, are forwarded up the systems office. Dr. Carvajal noted it is essential for faculty to work**

with their department head and HR if they need to move classes online.

4. The final update is on COVID vaccinations. The state of Georgia is in phase 1A+ providing vaccinations for front liner providers and those 65 and older. As some may have heard, the Department of Public Health is struggling to provide and distribute enough vaccines to meet the needs of the community. This week, we received news that we have been approved to deliver the vaccine. As soon as VSU receives the COVID vaccines, our Student Health Center will be able to vaccinate those who fall in the categories for phase 1A+. When vaccines become more available as we move into the 1B category, the COVID Taskforce will work on a plan to vaccinate all VSU employees. Students are in the general population and will not be vaccinated until later phases, possibly not until late spring or summer.

In response to questions:

1. Dr. Carvajal stated VSU will follow CDC guidelines which recommend those who are vaccinated continue to wear masks. Thus, for the foreseeable future, masks will continue to be required in classrooms and on campus for students, staff, and faculty after receiving the COVID vaccines.
 2. Dr. Carvajal noted there are no current updates on research funding and faculty scholarship for travel. Dr. Smith will send out updates as we slowly try to return funds to faculty scholarship and research.
5. Spring Faculty Senate Meeting Dates: April date changes to reflect revised academic calendar (Attachment B)

Dr. Davidson noted a few updates to the Faculty Senate meetings for spring semester:

1. The calendar has been revised and are posted online and attached to agenda.
 2. The March meeting date will remain the same on March 25th at 3:30 pm on Microsoft Teams. Originally, the meeting was moved for due to Spring Break. Since Spring Break is now distributed through Wellness Days, we will keep the March meeting the same to avoid confusion.
 3. The April meeting date will be moved to April 22nd at 3:30 pm on Microsoft Teams. Since the original April meeting falls on a Wellness Day, the April meeting is moved to the following Thursday per the usual protocol.
 4. Dates for agenda and minutes have been adjusted accordingly.
6. SACSCOC Accreditation QEP Update: Mike Savoie, Michael Black, Michael Schmidt (See overview presentation and full document in Teams)

Dr. Savoie, Dean of Honors College, provided an overview of the quality enhancement plan (QEP) which is part of the SACSCOC Accreditation Reaffirmation Review. Two documents have been posted. The first document is the actual 63-page QEP proposal document. The other document is a powerpoint overview based on the development process and timeline, showcasing the current progress at this point and how the proposed plan was created.

The title of the proposed plan is “Trailblazing: Shaping the Undergraduate Experience through Experiential Learning.”

Beginning in fall 2019, the QEP Committee was formed from a variety of constituents groups

across campus. The QEP Committee was charged with the following:

1. Determine a topic
2. Determine who would be responsible for implementation plan
3. Develop the outcomes and objectives
4. Develop assessments and identify who would be responsible for those assessments
5. Identify the costs involved

The group included representatives from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Student Success, and Students chosen from across the institution. The topic of experiential learning was intentional, to connect with VSU's strategic plan, specifically Goal #2: Valdosta State University will increase student participation in expanded transformational and experiential opportunities through implementing high impact and best practices focused on evolving student needs.

To be clear, one of the aims of the plan is to align with existing experiential learning activities supported and executed throughout the university. Thus, the plan is also a coordination with what we are already currently doing. We collected a variety of materials from existing programs, taskforces, and initiatives related to the topic of experiential learning. We also wanted the plan to focus on a targeted approach to 1st and 2nd year student engagement, as well as diversity, inclusion, and equity issues, which seems to be hallmark of what many faculty are focusing on in experiential activities.

Three questions guided us:

1. **Capability:** Does the institution have the capability to implement, sustain, and complete a plan?
2. **Involvement:** Will the institution be able to ensure ongoing involvement and engagement across constituent groups to complete the plan?
3. **Assessment:** Will we be able to measure student learning success with this plan?

Given this topic, we investigated the literature and proposed three specific goals:

1. **Research and Creative Inquiry:** Align experiential activities to research and creative inquiry while providing students with problem-based learning and scholarship.
2. **Global Citizenship:** Provide students with intentional opportunities to participate, interact, and explore individual and cultural differences.
3. **Servant Leadership and Community Engagement:** Provide intentional opportunities to apply skills and knowledge in current real-world situations and issues.

The QEP Committee worked together to draft this substantial plan and submitted the preliminary plan over the summer to be evaluated by an external reviewer as part of their initial review. They received positive feedback. With a report this elaborate and detailed, radical revisions were expected, but the draft had mostly minor revisions and positive feedback. There were recommendations on seven different items. Dr. Black, Associate Dean Michael Schmidt, and Dean Savoie addressed the modifications, and the document is in the process of resubmission.

To address how this plan will be executed, a pilot program will be initiated in the upcoming fall semester, led by an internal faculty-rank candidate to lead the program as QEP coordinator. Once the site/virtual visit is completed in March, there will be additional feedback on the

implementation of the plan. After addressing the feedback, a QEP Coordinator will be established to lead the pilot program. The pilot will investigate existing programs on campus and give them additional support and guidance. For example, the Global Citizenship goal is exemplified in the study abroad programs at VSU.

Dr. Black noted these experiential activities are already happening, but we were not able to tabulate them. This proposal allowed us to tabulate and highlight the experiential learning currently occurring on campus. The last QEP proposal on undergraduate research was successful, and Dr. Black stated they were hoping to repeat that success with this proposal on experiential learning. There will be further discussion with the Cabinet and the SACS reviewers before finalizing this proposal. Dr. Black hoped faculty will be aware and feel excited to know we are moving forward with one of our strategic goals, by developing a mechanism to support and train faculty on incorporating and implementing experiential in and out of the classroom.

Dr. Savoie highlighted the Committee worked with the groups across campus and investigated the literature to look for the best ways to execute and serve the students with this proposed plan.

Dr. Davidson thanked the QEP Committee for their hard work and noted the documents are posted in the files folder of the Faculty Senate Microsoft Team.

5. 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 met January 11th. The meeting minutes are posted on their website. As they are preparing the new catalog, Dr. Gravett noted there are many new curriculum and course changes going through. They highlighted three interesting changes. The first change is a new course Data 1501 was approved for addition to area D of the core, as part of a new Mathematics pathway offered through the system in fall. The second interesting course addition is Geography 1105 on Health, Geography, and Pandemics. Finally, the Chemistry Department is working with the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine to offer a three-plus-four program which will allow students to complete a B.S. in Chemistry and a PharmD degree.

- ii. Committee on Committees (fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu) – Nicole Alemanne

No report.

- iii. Faculty Affairs (fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu) – Daesang Kim

Dr. Kim reported the subcommittee has been working on the FEM and will update everyone their status soon.

- iv. Faculty Grievance Committee (fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu) – Mary Block

No report.

- v. Institutional Planning Committee (fs-stat-ipc@valdosta.edu) – Taralyn Hartsell

The committee will meet in February to discuss the role of IPC at VSU.

- 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_04-29-2020 ii. Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2020 Thank you for your assistance in getting and keeping our records up to date.
☺

2. New Business

- a. Standing Committee Reports:

- i. Academic Honors & Scholarships (fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu) – Fan Hao Nie

In the past week, the committee discussed the format of the Honors dinner for spring 2021 semester and decided on a virtual format for the safety of the faculty, students, and their parents. They will continue to work on preparing for the Honors dinner in the next few weeks.

- ii. Academic Scheduling & Procedures (fs-stand-asp@valdosta.edu) – Ian Anderson

No report.

- iii. Athletic Committee (fs-stand-ac@valdosta.edu) – Mallory Lane

The committee will meet soon and send out a Qualtrics survey next month for student nominations for spring student academics spotlight awards.

- iv. Diversity and Equity Committee (fs-stand-dec@valdosta.edu) – Jiyeon Jung & Hoa Nguyen

No report.

- v. Educational Policies (fs-stand-ep@valdosta.edu) – Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm

The committee conducted a poll and decided to host two townhall meetings to discuss SGA’s resolution to change the withdrawal policy. Dr. Arrastia-Chisholm will meet with Ryan Hogan tomorrow to schedule the townhall meetings.

- vi. Environmental Issues (fs-stand-ei@valdosta.edu) – Fred Knowles

No report.

vii. Faculty Scholarship (fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu) – Rudy Prine

No report.

viii. Internationalization and Globalization (fs-stand-igc@valdosta.edu) – Benjamin Harper

No report.

ix. Library Affairs (fs-stand-la@valdosta.edu) – Diane Holliman

There is funding for library materials. Dr. Holliman noted an email was sent to faculty with an application to request funding for library materials due by Friday, February 5th, 3:00 pm. They will meet in late February to discuss the requests.

x. Student Affairs (fs-stand-sa@valdosta.edu) – Brian Ward

No report. The committee will meet January 26th.

xi. Technology Committee (fs-stand-tc@valdosta.edu) – Sakhavat Mammadov

The committee met last week to refine a campus survey to faculty on technology used for instruction and otherwise. This survey will provide additional information to administration and recommendations to IT.

3. General Discussion

No items for general discussion.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Attendance and Proxy

NAME OF ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION	VISITOR?	PROXY IF APPLICABLE
Steven Kohn	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Candace witherspoon	Business Administration	No	
Melissa Pihos	Arts	No	Ian Andersen
Kristy Litster	Education & Human Services	No	
Michael Savoie	Arts	Yes	
Lenese Colson	Education & Human Services	No	
Jiyoong Jung	Education & Human Services	No	
Craig Coleman	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Kenneth Smith	Odum Library	No	
Robert Taylor	Odum Library	No	
Mark Errol	Arts	No	

Katharine S. Adams	Education & Human Services	No	
Nandan Kumar Jha	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Daesang Kim	Education & Human Services	No	
AJ Ramirez	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
F. E. Knowles, Jr.	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	No
Attila Cseh	Business Administration	No	Cindy Tori
Daesang Kim	Education & Human Services	No	
Chunlei Liu	Science and Mathematics	No	
Michael Black	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Sheri Gravett	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
Melissa Wolfe	Student Senators	No	
Debbie Paine	Education & Human Services	No	
Mark McQuade	Arts	No	
Huzeyfe Cakmakci	Education & Human Services	No	
Meagan Wood	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Gopeekrishnan Sreenilayam	Science and Mathematics	No	
Benjamin Harper	Arts	No	
Selena Nawrocki	Arts	No	
Brian Gerber	Education & Human Services	No	
Evelyn Davis-Walker	Arts	No	
Krishnendu Roy	Science and Mathematics	Yes	
Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm	Education & Human Services	No	
Taralynn Hartsell	Education & Human Services	No	
Blair Thomas	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Traycee Martin	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
Eric Howington	Business Administration	No	
Fanhao Nie	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Yvonne Landers	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
Chuck Talor	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
J. Mitchell Lockhart	Science and Mathematics	No	
Ryan Smith	Arts	No	
Adrianna Small	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
Matthew Roehrich	Arts	No	
Anurag Dasgupta	Science and Mathematics	No	
Michele Blankenship	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	
E-Ling Hsiao	Education & Human Services	No	
Lee Grimes	Education & Human Services	No	No
Matthew Roehrich	Arts	No	
Beverly Cribbs	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
Luis Gonzalez	Business Administration	No	
Mallory Lane	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	
Nicole Alemanne	Education & Human Services	No	
Laurel Yu	Arts	No	
Hanae Kanno	Education & Human Services	No	
Joseph Mason	Arts	No	
Linda de la Garza	Science and Mathematics	No	

Nick Rosatti	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Mary Block	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Alexandrina Ligia Focsan	Science and Mathematics	No	
Craig Coleman	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Brian Ward	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Vince Miller	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
Can Denizman	Science and Mathematics	No	
Chia-Ling Ho	Arts	No	
Steven Kohn	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Candace witherspoon	Business Administration	No	
Melissa Pihos	Arts	No	Ian Andersen
Kristy Litster	Education & Human Services	No	
Michael Savoie	Arts	Yes	
Lenese Colson	Education & Human Services	No	
Jiyoong Jung	Education & Human Services	No	
Craig Coleman	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Kenneth Smith	Odum Library	No	