



## 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 November 19, 2020, 3:30 pm Online through 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](mailto:fsec@valdosta.edu)), any actions sent to the President ([kfdavidson@valdosta.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

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

**Dr. Carvajal:**

**Dr. Carvajal gave updates on COVID-19 and noted the recent spike in COVID numbers in the past few weeks. Even with the recent spike, our numbers are comparatively lower than other universities, and this slight increase is limited to the student population. Thus, we are not observing a spike in COVID numbers for faculty and staff. We will continue to take safety measures and conduct contact tracing with our students. The increased numbers are closely tied to the Halloween weekend. Overall, students have been abiding by social distancing guidelines, but may have experienced pandemic fatigue, especially as we approach holiday events. We will continue to take careful measures as we return in January. We will send reminders about campaigns for keeping safe.**

**Dr. Carvajal also shared the success of the Lighting of the Palms event, emphasizing the importance of providing safe, social engagement on campus. He noted students certainly appreciate these efforts to provide engagement outside as well as inside the classroom.**

**Dr. Carvajal thanked everyone for helping with the upcoming fall 2020 in-person commencement, preparing for the spring 2021 semester and supporting students to be more present in classrooms. Dr. Carvajal described the students' excitement for fall commencement and his appreciation for everyone who is volunteering to assist with this event.**

**He also thanked those involved in the Ethics Week events, and highlighted the excellent nominations for awards on ethical leadership. There were six winners, two of which were students, and two faculty members, Dr. Matthew Carter and Dr. Ellis Logan.**

**Dr. Carvajal noted the entire campus community is due for a break and thanked everyone for a great semester.**

**Dr. Smith:**

**Dr. Smith added his thanks to faculty for all they have done to make this a relatively smooth semester, despite the incredible challenges around us. Dr. Smith mentioned the faculty and staff COVID numbers each week have been very low, highlighting the successful efforts of faculty to stay safe, particularly in classrooms.**

**Dr. Smith also noted Dr. Gravett's email on additional resources for spring classes, including syllabus statements, refined definitions of different teaching modalities to use with students, tips for improving student attendance, and so on. Dr. Smith wished to highlight and ask all faculty to include in their syllabus a statement on the five Wellness Days. These days are a benefit to students because they are given a break from meeting for class. SGA has asked faculty to include this statement in their syllabus, in order to make it clear the Wellness Days are breaks for students.**

**Dr. Smith wished everyone a wonderful, well-earned Thanksgiving break.**

**In response to questions:**

- 1. Dr. Smith noted they have not made any changes in SOIs for fall 2020.**
- 2. Dr. Smith also encouraged departments to not conduct meetings on the five Wellness Days in spring 2021. While they are not banning meetings, Dr. Smith noted we can anticipate not having to meet during Wellness Days, which are meant to be a break for students and faculty. Dr. Moch noted one of the Faculty Senate meetings in spring 2021 will need to be rescheduled. General practice has been to move the Faculty Senate meeting to the following week.**
- 3. Melissa Wolfe, SGA President, thanked everyone for including the Wellness Days and appreciated faculty for implementing the break, and informing students through their syllabus statement. Dr. Smith also thanked Ms. Wolfe and SGA as whole for working with them on this issue. Faculty Senate President, Dr. Davidson, thanked Ms. Wolfe for her leadership.**
- 4. Dr. Smith suggested class assignments are not due on the Wellness Day or the day after the Wellness Day and recommended faculty work with their students on forming deadlines around these breaks.**

**1. Old & Unfinished Business**

**a. Statutory Committee Reports**

- i. Academic Committee ([fs-stat-ac@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-ac@valdosta.edu)) – Sheri Gravett; Find agendas and minutes here: <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>**

**The Academic Committee did not meet in November. They will resume meetings in January and reminded faculty to encourage their departments to move forward on curriculum-related items that need to be addressed in January and February.**

- ii. Committee on Committees ([fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-coco@valdosta.edu)) – Nicole Alemanne**

**Dr. Alemanne is working on setting up the elections for 2021-2022.**

- iii. Faculty Affairs ([fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-fa@valdosta.edu)) – Daesang Kim**

**The committee met on November 6<sup>th</sup> to review their business items. Mary Beth Rousseau and Ryan Smith offered to work on the FEM changes as a subcommittee. Dr. Davidson thanked the committee for all their hard work.**

- iv. Faculty Grievance Committee ([fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-fgc@valdosta.edu)) – Mary Block**

**No report.**

- v. Institutional Planning Committee ([fs-stat-ipc@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stat-ipc@valdosta.edu)) – Taralyn Hartsell**

**No report. Dr. Hartsell will conduct research on what Institutional Planning Committees have done at other institutions. They will meet after January to discuss the role of this committee on campus.**

- b. Meeting minutes from the various committees should be sent to [fsec@valdosta.edu](mailto:fsec@valdosta.edu) AND to [archives@valdosta.edu](mailto: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](mailto:fs-stand-ahs@valdosta.edu)) – Fan Hao Nie

**The committee reviewed applications for the GLARDA award and selected their nominee.**

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

**No report. They will meet in January to discuss the schedule.**

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

**The committee met on November 11<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the nominees they have received. They discussed ways to recognize them, possibly at a basketball game. They will send out a Qualtrics survey in February for spring nominees.**

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

**The committee met on November 12<sup>th</sup>. They have received some photos demonstrating diversity and inclusion for the VSU website. The committee has also made some connections between diversity organizations on campus and solicits recommendations from other faculty for other groups they may know.**

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

**The committee met on October 29<sup>th</sup> and discussed the SGA resolution 20-03 regarding the policy on withdrawals. The committee voted to remove the limits on withdrawals.**

**The item was again remanded to the committee to draft a proposal of the changes. The proposal will then be reviewed and voted on by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Davidson can assist and guide in the drafting of the proposal as needed.**

**In response to a question on the justification for this item, Dr. Arrastia-Chisholm noted the withdrawal limits have not been evaluated, and some staff members have described it as being ineffective in helping students progress through their programs. The resolution originated from SGA and was proposed last Spring. Melissa Wolfe, SGA President, shared how the resolution came from a place of centering student success, and aspiring to improve the overall retention and**

completion rate of students. She also expressed an openness to conversations on not removing the limits entirely while increasing the number of withdrawals. Dr. Moch discussed the issue of students over-registering for classes and suggested finding more information on the justification for the withdrawal limits in the policy. Other faculty also noted the financial implications, retention positives as well as retention negatives with these changes.

Dr. Davidson highlighted the importance of the Educational Policies committee, SGA, and Faculty Senate working together to hear the needs of the students, and also noted that the agenda included the SGA resolution for everyone to access and review. Faculty also mentioned the policy may be due for an update given the move to centralized advising and worth exploring. Dr. Arrastia-Chisholm emphasized another part of the resolution was to have advisors work more closely with students during the withdrawal process.

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

The committee did not meet this month but had two issues. First, Georgia Power sent an email regarding the removal of a circuitry box that impacted the landscape and requested advisory feedback. While there was not much that could be done, the committee appreciated their reaching out on the matter. The second issue was the location of a charging station for electric cars in the parking lot near the Education building. The committee's consensus for the best location was the side of the parking lot closest to the tennis courts, which is the most convenient spot for academic buildings.

- vii. Faculty Scholarship ([fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu](mailto:fs-stand-fs@valdosta.edu)) – Rudy Prine

**No report.**

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

The committee met November 2<sup>nd</sup> and discussed creating a juried video showcase to feature the international experiences of students, international collaborations and research of faculty and ways in which VSU is globalizing curriculum and outreach. They expect to have an outline of this idea by February or March, and asked Faculty Senate to email [bgharper@valdosta.edu](mailto:bgharper@valdosta.edu) with detailed information if they know of anyone who is conducting international scholarship or globalizing their curriculum.

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

**No report.**

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

The committee met November 10<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Miller reported on Wild Adventures Days. They are planning two VSU days in spring 2021. The student pass is for 6 days, not including Saturdays. 852 students have already visited this school year. The committee will continue to discuss ideas for the new Spring Break policy and noted students are still attending classes as they should be despite current circumstances. Accommodations may be available for larger class sizes. Dr. Miller suggested a survey to understand students' preferences on attending classes.

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

An item for consideration was given to the committee to clarify concern from some faculty members regarding the timeline of the changes to MyPages.

### 3. General Discussion

Dr. Brian Ring, USG Faculty Council Chair, shared updates from the fall meeting in October.

1. Dr. Davidson is our representative and has sent out the USG survey on the experiences of faculty teaching this semester: <https://forms.gle/KMYeyXSwB3CLKxJh8>
2. The survey is quantitative and will collect information on the patterns of student attendance, as well as how face-to-face and in-person classes are affecting faculty.
3. The Board of Regents also sent out a resolution to increase face-to-face teaching.
4. The next meeting is in April.

Dr. Ring also discussed the process of updating policies on post tenure review. Funding for post tenure review is decided by the institutions.

Faculty discussed how students find the hyflex format useful, but also how this may curb in-class attendance given the ease of accessing recorded lectures online. Faculty discussed the pitfalls of relaxed attendance policies and ways to allow flexibility in dealing with COVID while also maintaining accountability and engagement. In addition, faculty can provide clear expectations that students continue to attend in person, and parameters for when students can attend online (feeling ill, quarantine, or isolation).

Dr. Miller discussed aiding this process through COVID Self-Reporting, Student Health Center Contact Tracing, and the Dean of Students Absentee Notification for all verified absences. Ms. Wolfe added SGA is also discussing the disengagement and lack of attendance in classes, and making plans for how to help encourage more engagement next semester.

Dr. Smith noted constituents have called legislators and expressed concerns about in-person classes that moved online. Some parents also expressed concerns that they were paying for in-person classes that were being hosted online and wanted those fees to reflect the format of the class. Dr. Smith referred to resources from Dr. Gravett on increasing attendance and classroom engagement.

Dr. Gravett referred to strategies for attendance in the hyflex guide. She also recommended students who need to attend a hybrid or hyflex class fully online can work through the access office to receive those accommodations, rather than the instructor having to coordinate these

accommodations. Dr. Carvajal thanked SGA and Faculty Senate for having these conversations, as attendance and engagement were common issues across institutions.

Faculty expressed concerns about SOI evaluations during the pandemic time and noted some institutions are foregoing SOI feedback altogether. Dr. Smith discussed the need for some kind of feedback, especially for new faculty teaching, while also taking the COVID context into account when reviewing the SOI feedback. Dr. Krishnendu Roy, the representative from the Department Heads Council on Faculty Senate, highlighted the SOIs will be evaluated with consideration for the unprecedented times and circumstances.

Dr. Gravett added that a notification of the workshops by Dr. Jamie Landau and Dr. Michael Black centered on helping faculty prepare annual reports during COVID.

In addition, advisors are recommended to follow closely with students' withdrawal process. For international students, they need to take 12 hours minimum as a requirement.

Faculty are encouraged to take the USG survey to further express what has worked or not worked to increase student attendance and engagement.

#### 4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

### Attendance and Proxy

NAME OF ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION	VISITOR?	PROXY IF APPLICABLE
Linda de la Garza	Science and Mathematics	No	
Jiyoon Jung	Education & Human Services	No	
Candace witherspoon	Business Administration	No	
F. E. Knowles, Jr	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	I am proxy for R. K. Prine, as well as attending as a Senator in my own right.
Mallory Lane	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	Laura Carter
Kristy Litster	Education & Human Services	No	
Meagan Wood	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Melissa Pihos	Arts	No	
Robert Taylor	Odum Library	No	
Michele Blankenship	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	
Benjamin Harper	Arts	No	
Ericka Parra	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Selena Nawrocki	Arts	No	
Taralynn Hartsell	Education & Human Services	No	
Ken Smith	Odum Library	No	
Kelly Gamble Mathis	Business Administration	No	

<b>Lenese Colson</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Attila Cseh</b>	Business Administration	No	
<b>Michael Black</b>	Education & Human Services	Yes	
<b>Deborah Paine</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Krishnendu Roy</b>	Science and Mathematics	Yes	
<b>David Boyd</b>	Retirees Association Representative	No	
<b>Cynthia Tori</b>	Business Administration	No	
<b>Yvonne Le Roy-Landers</b>	Business Administration	Yes	
<b>Melissa Wolfe</b>	Student Senators	No	
<b>Alexandrina Ligia Focsan</b>	Science and Mathematics	No	
<b>Sharon Gravett</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
<b>E-Ling Hsiao</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Laurel Yu</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Daesang Kim</b>	Education & Human Services	No	Sakhavat Mammadov
<b>Paul Leavy</b>	Council on Staff Affairs	No	
<b>Diane Holliman</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Beverly Cribbs</b>	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
<b>Lonnie Maddox</b>	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	
<b>Brian C Ring</b>	Science and Mathematics	Yes	
<b>Ashley Cooper</b>	Council on Staff Affairs	No	
<b>Brian Ward</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
<b>Mary Block</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
<b>Evelyn Davis-Walker</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Mark McQuade</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Ian Andersen</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Lee Grimes</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Fanhao Nie</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
<b>Chunlei Liu</b>	Science and Mathematics	No	
<b>Steven Kohn</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
<b>Luis Gonzalez</b>	Business Administration	No	
<b>Chuck Talor</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
<b>Gopeekrishnan Sreenilayam</b>	Science and Mathematics	No	
<b>Eric Howington</b>	Business Administration	No	
<b>Dr. J. Mitchell Lockhart</b>	Science and Mathematics	No	
<b>Ryan Smith</b>	Arts	No	
<b>M Denise Lovett</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
<b>James C. Pace</b>	Nursing and Health Sciences	Yes	
<b>Blair Thomas</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	



<b>Mark Errol</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Darius Anthony</b>	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
<b>Huzeyfe Cakmakci</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Joseph Mason</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Sheila Hall</b>	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
<b>Angelica Gannon</b>	Council on Staff Affairs	No	
<b>Nicole Alemanne</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Chialing Lynn Ho</b>	Arts	No	
<b>AJ Ramirez</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
<b>Anurag Dasgupta</b>	Science and Mathematics	No	
<b>Matthew Roehrich</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Nandan Kumar Jha</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
<b>Shantanu Chakraborty</b>	Science and Mathematics	No	
<b>Can Denizman</b>	Science and Mathematics	No	
<b>Melissa Pihos</b>	Arts	No	
<b>Hanae Kanno</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Brian Gerber</b>	Education & Human Services	No	
<b>Vince Miller</b>	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
<b>Ivan P. Nikolov</b>	Education & Human Services	No	n/a
<b>Katharine Adams</b>	Education & Human Services	No	