



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 September 17, 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), 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 August 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 apologized he is unable to stay for the entire meeting due to attending a live event that will highlight the VSU community at 5:30 pm. He invited faculty to tune in at 5:30 pm.

Dr. Carvajal noted he will keep his updates brief, given there will be information available through the Presidential Forum, which is provided through a virtual link. He thanked those who sent in questions in advance for the Forum. He also mentioned the upcoming Budget Advisory Council Meeting, in which Tracee Martin and Robert Smith will share more information on the current budget and expenses.

Dr. Carvajal has the following updates:

- 1. COVID is taken very seriously at VSU. The Taskforce is meeting regularly to track the numbers. VSU is reporting some of the lowest numbers, in comparison to other universities in the USG system. The numbers, thus far, have gone down, and the overall trends look positive. Numbers for employees and faculty are low. Though we are not satisfied until we get those numbers down to zero, we are pleased that the plan is working and we are keeping people safe.**
- 2. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to the Celebration of Inclusion this Friday. Fifty-seven years ago, the institution was desegregated, and since then the 50th anniversary has passed, we are hoping to bring back this celebration as an annual event. The program will take place at 11:00 am on the steps of West Hall. At 2:00 pm, the Head of the State NAACP, and also former student leader of Dr. Miller when he was a Georgia Southern, will be speaking. Dr. Carvajal encourages everyone who can to attend.**

In response to questions for Dr. Carvajal:

- 1. Dr. Carvajal acknowledged while some organizations keep a running total of the number of COVID cases, it was decided that paying attention to the number of active cases would be a better approach. Focusing on the running total numbers could potentially sensationalize the issue, and possibly be used by other groups against the institution. There was a value in knowing the active case load, and Dr. Carvajal emphasized how we will continue to monitor the number of active loads to know where they are coming from and devise plan for responding to them.**
- 2. Dr. Carvajal clarified the tracking of active cases within a 10-day timeframe is based on the CDC definition, which noted those who test positive with COVID are most contagious within 10 days. He noted there is follow up with students and a quarantine process to see where the spikes may be occurring.**
- 3. Dr. Carvajal stated they remain committed to support the students in the CAMP program. The grant currently goes through the end of May or June 2021. The next call for grants is coming out in October, and the plan is to reapply for the grant. Once we have a grant application, we expect it is likely to receive the re-awarding of the funds. An interim person is overseeing the grant, and once the grant is approved, VSU will then conduct a permanent search.**
- 4. In regards to graduation in Fall 2020, Dr. Carvajal responded they have not made a**

decision yet on whether or not graduation will be virtual or in person. If they are conducting the graduation face to face, one possible manner is to be socially distant on the Front Lawn, and require tickets for attendance. However, he noted this may be difficult to enforce in an open space.

Dr. Smith:

Dr. Smith commented at this point, we can continue to anticipate social distancing and mask wearing in Spring 2021. The size of classroom spaces and teaching high flex as well as other modalities continues to be explored. Dr. Smith discussed how they are working to adjust Spring schedules. Classes in Fall were fixed and did not allow for accommodations of schedules. For this upcoming semester, they will try to prioritize courses, especially first year courses and ones with high DFW rates. By having more time to work with course schedules, they hope to have fewer classes where students are meeting only 3-4 classes. One advantage is having additional instructional space, and they are actively working on how to adjust the schedule accordingly.

In response to questions for Dr. Smith:

1. In regards to affordable campus-wide testing, Dr. Smith notified a five-dollar test out of Yale has been approved. However, this was not a test kit, but rather a protocol that required having a highly complex laboratory available, and the ability to purchase reagents. At this time, we do not know if we have the ability to do so, especially with the certified lab spaces and complexity that would be needed. We do not have a lab certified for human testing, so this issue is more complex than simply buying a test kit.
2. Dr. Carvajal added there is no shortage in testing now, through the saliva and rapid response test. We have plenty of these tests in stock, and will be making another order in Spring to ramp up COVID testing and stay abundant to ensure the tests are available. He noted we will also stay diligent through marketing campaigns, signage, and social direct messaging to encourage testing, tracking, and keeping safe, despite currently low numbers.
3. Dr. Smith encouraged conversations between student and faculty members, and clarity in whether or not a student is merely isolating or quarantining. In these cases, students may be able to submit assignments from home and stream classes.
4. In response to whether faculty with underlying medical conditions will be allowed to teach online in Spring, Dr. Carvajal responded they have not yet received guidance to change the Fall process of requesting to teach online. They hope to deliver an updated guidance for Spring soon. Dr. Smith added they do hope to know by Oct. 26, so students would be informed before registration.
5. Dr. Carvajal stated any questions for him can be directed to Merritt Wall.

Dr. Smith acknowledged how things have gone smoothly, despite a few glitches, and he thanked the faculty for their hard work in a world of uncertainties. He discussed how the VSU is working on eDegree and will be the sole institution to pilot it. They will go up for approval from USG in October and hope to roll out programs for eDegree in January 2021.

Dr. Smith noted the Budget Advisory Council Meeting will be at 10:00 am on Tuesday, via a Microsoft Teams link. They will share budget updates, and Dr. Smith commented on how the

high enrollment numbers are a very positive indication for the budget. However, students may wish to move to remote learning, and he suggested this was something we needed to consider. In certain areas, students are not able to learn remotely, such as practicing techniques in dental, laboratory sciences, or music and art.

Dr. Merritt Wall provided a link to the Comprehensive Program Review:

<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/president/comprehensive-administrative-review.php>

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>

They had their first meeting this past Monday via Teams. The minutes have been posted on the website. There is a request for political science to deactivate the legal assistance area of study, and since there is only one student in the program, it will close once the student graduates. They are also adding a new pre-law track. A new certificate in community and technical college leadership is developed in CLT and will be offered Summer 2021.

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

No report.

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

The FEM model is in Attachment B in the Agenda. This will be up for discussion in October. The purpose of the model is to create a model for faculty excellence. The old model from 2007 was altered, given some of the previous language was helpful for the new document. The five-tier model is now passed through, and the model is intended to be something useful while also aligning with university policies on tenure and promotion. They have held two town hall meetings and made the followings changes:

1. **Change current binary system to a five-tier evaluation system, which seemed to align better with the university (we evaluate staff and students on a five-tier system).**
2. **Craft the language with an aim was to create relatable events, attainable by any faculty member. They did not want to have a top tier that was attainable only at the culmination of your academic career.**
3. **Use more transparent language in the evaluation, especially in regards to merit.**
4. **Change the policy back to when the post tenure review is in department heads streamlined process, and the first line is the collegiate committees.**
5. **Set up a framework for the new evaluation model. They did not want to ascribe a level of achievement that fit for some departmental committee but not for others. They also did not set to create a university wide standards of achievement.**

6. Request approval for the document, and if approved, the work would be in departmental and collegiate committees to create a standard for their unit, giving power to departments, and making sure things will be equitable across the board.
7. Move forward with introducing the FEM model for voting in October.

Dr. Smith noted moving in this direction will assist with assessing merit pay and tying it to the annual evaluation process. Dr. Gravett appreciated the work of the committee, especially going through the town hall process. While there is still work to be done and the process of adapting it to each college and working with department heads.

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

No report.

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

No report.

- 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
The Academic Honors and Scholarships Committee is seeking nominations for the VSU representative for the 2021 Georgia Legislative Academic Recognition Day. The due date is Nov. 9th. They have also updated the committee roster.

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

No report.

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

The Athletic Committee met Sept. 9th. They are ensuring student spotlight awards are sent out for a personalized commitment recognition. A Qualtrics link is sent out this month to get Fall nominations for student awards.

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

The incoming chairs met with the outgoing chair, Dr. Talor, and received the charge to work on the website, showing diversity-oriented engagement on campus. A meeting with the rest of the committee is scheduled for next week.

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

No report.

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

The committee met and discussed how to address the small creek on campus that is polluted with trash. They are enlisting help and collaboration with the Keep Valdosta Lowndes Beautiful group to pick up the trash in that area, either Oct. 3rd or 10th.

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

Dr. Rudy Prine is the new incoming chair. They have not met since last Spring, since there is no current funding, but they are meeting to think ahead should funding become available.

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

Does not currently have a chair.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

No report. They are meeting next week.

3. General Discussion

Brian Ring is the president of the USG Faculty Council and will attend the Post Tenure Review Committee meetings as a faculty representative for our tier. He will draft a succinct summary of the post tenure review updates to communicate with Faculty Senate and the Executive Committee.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM.

Attendance and Proxy

NAME OF ATTENDEE	AFFILIATION	VISITOR?	PROXY IF APPLICABLE
Peggy Moch	Science and Mathematics	No	
Jiyoon Jung	Education & Human Services	No	
Gopeekrishnan Sreenilayam	Science and Mathematics	No	
Taralynn Hartsell	Education & Human Services	No	
Brian Ward	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Linda de la Garza	Science and Mathematics	No	
Michele Blankenship	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	
Robert T. Smith	Science and Mathematics	No	
Kelly Mathis	Business Administration	No	I am completing Marko Horn's term.
Benjamin Harper	Arts	No	
Nicole Alemanne	Education & Human Services	No	
Mark McQuade	Arts	No	
Kristy Litster	Education & Human Services	No	
Dr. Meagan Wood	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Matthew Roehrich	Arts	No	
Debbie Paine	Education & Human Services	No	
Taralynn Hartsell	Education & Human Services	No	
Michael Black (Academic Affairs)	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Ken Smith	Odum Library	No	
Brian Ward	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Sharon Gravett	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
Mary Block	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Krishnendu Roy	Science and Mathematics	Yes	
Robert Taylor	Odum Library	No	
Ashley Cooper	Council on Staff Affairs	No	
Laura Carter	Nursing and Health Sciences	No	
Katharine Adams	Education & Human Services	No	
Lenese Colson	Education & Human Services	No	
Theresa Grove	Science and Mathematics	Yes	
Melissa Pihos	Arts	No	
Diane Carol Holliman	Education & Human Services	No	
F. E. Knowles, Jr.	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Evelyn Davis-Walker	Arts	No	
Ian Andersen	Arts	No	
Laurel Yu	Arts	No	
Daesang Kim	Education & Human Services	No	
Traycee Martin	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
Chunlei Liu	Science and Mathematics	No	
Selena Nawrocki	Arts	No	
Shantanu Chakraborty	Science and Mathematics	No	
Can Denizman	Science and Mathematics	No	
Fanhao Nie	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	

Michael (Blair) Thomas	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Rudy K. Prine	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Meagan Arrastia-Chisholm	Education & Human Services	No	
Angelica Gannon	Council on Staff Affairs	Yes	
Mallory Lane	Odum Library	No	
Anurag Dasgupta	Science and Mathematics	No	
Eric Howington	Business Administration	No	
A.J. Ramirez	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
Mark Errol	Arts	No	
Brian Gerber	Education & Human Services	No	
Daesang Kim	Education & Human Services	No	
Lee Grimes	Education & Human Services	No	n.a.
Joseph Mason	Arts	No	
J. Mitchell Lockhart	Science and Mathematics	No	
Maisy Mustic	Student Senators	Yes	
Hanae Kanno	Education & Human Services	No	
Steven Kohn	Humanities and Social Sciences	No	
CHIA LING HO	Arts	No	
Candace Witherspoon	Business Administration	No	
Cindy Tori	Business Administration	No	
Attila Cseh	Business Administration	No	
M. Denise Lovett	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
Alexandrina Ligia Focsan	Science and Mathematics	No	
Luis Gonzalez	Business Administration	No	
E-Ling Hsiao	Education & Human Services	No	
Michael T Schmidt	Arts	Yes	
Zachary Karazsia	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
Nandan Kumar Jha	Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes	
Brian C Ring	Science and Mathematics	No	I am your USG rep on Faculty council
Eugene Asola	Education & Human Services	Yes	
Jia Lu	Science and Mathematics	Yes	