

AP Faculty Senate

February 21 – 10 am to 12 pm

Meeting Minutes

Roll

Roll for the meeting was taken and recorded via the Poll Everywhere attendance

Absent: Ed Olson (Paige Thacker), Cathy Duerbeck (Michael Sutherland), Tara Brant (Jeremy Daubert), Blair Allen (no alternate), Jonathan Bradley (no alternate), Arianna DiFillippo (no alternate), Andrew Dubs (no alternate), Chris Helms (no alternate), Steve Klieber (no alternate), Gwyneth Martin (no alternate)

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Administrative & Professional Faculty Senate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University was held on February 21, 2024. President Janice Austin called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Minutes

January minutes voted on and approved via email

Old Business

[Beyond Boundaries Scholarship](#) update-Holli Gardner

- Noon from 2/21/2024-link will be active!
- Please share with at least two AP faculty colleagues

A/P Faculty Professional Development Leave Working Group-Susan Short

- The group has responded to feedback from across the university including finance and human resources
- The formal resolution will be created with Stephanie Trout and April Myers' help and will go on to CAPFA for next steps
- This has been an 18-month journey, so thanks to all who have helped!
- A goal for the group could be a scholarship for AP faculty using Professional Development leave
- This will need to go to University Council for approval as part of the AP faculty senate's charge

[Job Architecture](#) update-Sandee Cheynet

- [Job Architecture 101 Website](#)
- Updates will be forthcoming in March

New Business

2024 Campus Climate Survey – Greg Beecher and Taylor Barker

- [Presentation slides](#)

- The goal of this survey is to “take the temperature” of the university including AP faculty senate and other employees
- Many university level experts being brought together to create the survey
- The survey measures the attitudes, behaviors, and standards of faculty, staff, and wage employees to understand the perceptions of employees as it relates to diversity, inclusion, leadership, work environment, and job satisfaction
- Understand how to support developing a culture of attracting and retaining talent and of belonging and connection
- Understand employee perceptions of work environment, job satisfaction, and engagement
- Understand the different experiences of the different groups across the university
- Understand how the climate has changed since the previous survey (2021)
- All stakeholder groups will be included in the survey
- Many focus groups for the survey: demographics, safety, resources, recruitment, employee relations, diversity and inclusion, climate, and career
- Full results will be analyzed and reported out
- Individual responses are confidential
- Communications through multiple channels to promote the survey opportunity
- Please encourage participation as much as possible
- Survey results will be broken down by senior management and reported to multiple stakeholder groups (VP level, BOV, president’s cabinet, University Council, staff and faculty senates, HR groups)
- Take the survey: March 18-29
- Employees will receive the survey by direct link via email
- There will be a paper version of the survey if staff would like to submit it via hard copy instead of electronically
- Completion time for most staff will be 10 minutes or less

CAPFA Updates-Stephanie Trout

- This group was previously robust and had many business items to address before the AP faculty senate was created
- There are many fewer requirements now that the AP senate exists
- One week before our CAPFA meetings we will poll for any pressing issues, but at this point many meetings do not have any agenda items and will be cancelled
- Let us know if there are other areas where we can place our time and efforts
- There is one current grievance panel hearing that is pending and will be sent out for AP faculty senate volunteers (minimum: 3)
- CAPFA has noticed that a large percentage of the grievances are coming from extension
- How can we address this concern? Should we create a subcommittee if appropriate? Yes! We should include senators and non-senators to contribute to the subcommittee/working group

- An email will be sent to all senators to determine who is interested in serving on the subcommittee

Treasurer's Report-Jennifer Jones

- AP Faculty Senate has \$0 in funds

Senate Committee Reports

- Communications Committee-Enrique Noyola
 - No new updates
 - A communication for giving day will be coming out shortly
 - Please submit stories to our newsletter
- Elections & Nominations-Scott Weimer
 - The committee met on 2/20/2024
 - Anyone who is up for nomination this year will be notified
 - If you are in a two- or three-year term we are assuming you will continue your term
 - Please let us know if there are alternates who may be interested in serving; we always need more
 - Attempting to transition forms from Google to question Pro so they may look a bit different this year
 - Thanks to the subcommittee for working on the awards for AP faculty
- Policies and Issues-Nicole Connors
 - Meetings will begin next month
 - There are currently 6 resolutions out for vote
 - How are responses handled once submitted? The responses are given to Janice to be compiled and a letter is created to be submitted to the governing body that requested feedback
- Professional Development-Tara Brent/Jennifer Jones/Juliet Dadras
 - Join us for [music in March](#)
 - Adding professional development opportunities to the AP faculty senate calendar
 - [Speaking the Unspoken Conflict Management Series](#)
 - Join us in Roanoke on April 4th for a tour of the facility, and short presentation: 10:30 – 11:30 walking tour of the Health Sciences and Technology campus
 - 11:30 - 1 Discussion with Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and the VTC School of Medicine
 - Virginia Tech's Health Sciences and Technology campus; 4 Riverside, Room 1101
 - Emails can be sent out to remind of events and the new calendar

Other Updates from Committees and Commissions

- Commission for Undergraduate Studies and Policies-Keri Swaby
 - No report

- Employee Benefits Committee
 - No report
- Commission of Research-Leanna Blevins
 - No report
- Commencement-Marlena Lester
 - No report
- Campus Accessibility Working Group-Holli Gardner Drewry
 - No report
- Diversity Committee-Juliet Dadras
 - No report
- Early Childhood Education Committee-Brandy Morse
 - No report
- Commission of Outreach and International Affairs-Susan Short
 - No report
- Transportation and Parking Services
 - Reserved carpool spaces on campus are being evaluated for removal
 - If you have feedback, please email Aaron Prussion
 - Departmental leased spaces are being evaluated for removal, no decision has been made yet
 - Policy 5005 has been updated and no electronic powered devices can be brought into buildings (bikes, scooters, hoverboards, electronic skateboards)
 - Is there discussion around North End Center parking? there are very few parking spaces for faculty available by mid-morning and many student spaces still available (assuming those are used for Cook Counseling)
 - Issues can be and are brought to parking services, but often there is not meaningful change

Other Topics or Business

- Holli is working to get a description for giving day for faculty to be able to share

Announcements

- [VT Giving Day 2024](#): noon on February 21st – noon on February 22nd
- Submit stories to add to the A/P Faculty newsletter (email Enrique Noyola)
- [A/P Faculty Senate Governance Calendar-new!](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am

Next Meeting March 20, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Jones
Secretary/Treasurer