

## AP Faculty Senate

5/15/2024

10:00-12:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

**Present:** Janice Austin (presiding), Blair Allen, Sarah Armstrong, Leanna Blevins, Jonathan Bradley, Tara Brent, Brock Burroughs, Nicole Connors, Jessica Crawford, Andrew Dolbin-MacNab, Cathy Duerbeck, Rob Emmett, Alix Guynn, Jennifer Jones, Marlena Lester, Brandy Morse, Enrique Noyola, Ed Olsen, Chad Proudfoot, Aaron Prussin, Keri Swaby, Stephanie Trout, Nicholas Woods

**Absent with Notice:** Teri Pecora, Juliet Dadras, Erin Poff

**Absent:** Nikesha Arthur, Arianna DiFillippo, Andrew Dubs, Jennifer Gallagher, Chris Helms, Stephen Kleiber, Gwyneth Martin, Lauren Pollard

**Guests:** Judy Alford, Sandee Cheynet, Erica Cooper, Michelle Dalton, Holli Gardner-Drewry, Caeland Garner, Monique Logan, Julie McClafferty, April Myers, Tim Sands, Jeremy Sippel, Dee Dee Somervell, Mallory Tuttle, Luke Williams, Karen Wrightsman

Janice Austin called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. A quorum was present. (note: a quorum is 50% plus 1 of current membership)

### 1. Adoption of the current agenda

- Motion by Ed Olsen and a second by Leanna Blevins. Motion carried.

### 2. Announcement of electronic posting and voting of minutes of 4/17/2024

- Minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Information System on the Web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu>).

### 3. Unfinished Business

*Beyond Boundaries Scholarship update-Holli Gardner*

- <https://crowdfund.vt.edu/project/39565/wall>
- Our beyond boundaries scholarship recipient is now known (not shared here due to FERPA)
- There were some mishaps with our site very close to Giving Day
- \$1135 raised so far
- Some gifts were not recorded as coming from AP faculty, so if you feel like your name is not on the “wall”, please let us know and we can get the information updated

*Job Architecture update-Sandee Cheynet and Sara Lucy*

- [Job Architecture 101 Website](#)
- It was so fabulous to hear the support of this project from President Sands
- Almost complete with the mapping of senior management
- The summer will be about reviewing the data compiled already and then the next step will be the career pathing

#### **4. New Business**

##### *CAPFA Updates-Stephanie Trout*

- No update
- Employee benefits committee met in early May and were discussing discrepancies between staff and faculty benefits
- This may be a new way to review the policy on allowing AP faculty the opportunity to use the service leave benefit that is already given to staff
- The extra holidays that were given to us so we are not required to take leave during the Winter university closing are now being used to say there is no need for the additional service leave for AP faculty
- This does not seem to be in the spirit of the previous discussion about discrepancies between the different faculty/staff groups

##### *Treasurer's Report-Jennifer Jones*

- AP Faculty Senate has \$0 in funds

#### **5. Committee Reports and/or Minutes**

##### *Senate Committee Reports*

- Communications Committee-Enrique Noyola
  - No report
- Elections & Nominations-Scott Weimer, Leanna Blevins
  - Please complete the form for Parliamentarian and committee and commission service
- Policies and Issues-Nicole Connors
  - No report
- Professional Development-Jennifer Jones
  - Our fall tour and talk is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon at Newman Library

##### *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
  - Accessibility Awareness week was a success
  - The call will come out in the Fall for next year's event. Think about what you may have in your unit that would be beneficial to this endeavor
  - 2025 Accessibility week will immediately follow Principles of Community week

- 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-Aaron Prussin
  - No report

## 6. Presentation(s)

- Question/Answer session with guest, President Tim Sands
  - What are your thoughts on shared governance?
    - It has evolved over the last several years and it is more transparent now
    - Previous universities he has been at has not had all the voices and here we have an elaborate system, but we have all voices
    - We will continue to fine tune in the future
    - Resolutions voted on by university council can, but don't have to be, sent to the Board of Visitors for review/approval
    - AP faculty senate appreciates being a part of shared governance now and being able to engage in the larger governance process
  - What are your thoughts on free speech and what interactions have you had with any student groups?
    - A workgroup was created in years past to create a university statement on academic freedom and free expression. It was created to put multiple ideas together including the first amendment and inclusive environments
    - Our current university environment has protections on time, place and manner that was provided by the courts
    - The challenge with the encampment refused to follow policy 5000 and there were conflicts with others wanting to utilize the space
    - President Sands continues to meet with any groups involved: faculty senate leadership, graduate and professional student senate; Jewish student leadership, and pro-Palestinian student leadership
  - Job Architecture has been a concern for AP faculty since we are such a varied group of faculty members with very different job responsibilities. There are still inconsistencies. How can AP faculty senate help to address some of the inconsistencies that still exist?
    - The job architecture should address the inconsistencies
    - AP faculty group grew organically without significant input from HR-job architecture will address this and streamline these
    - Lifelong learning and professional development should be built into job descriptions
  - How does the Board of Visitors change as the state leadership changes?
    - 14 voting board members exist total; 13 are appointed by the governor and are able to renew after a 4-year term
    - Most members are aligned politically with the governor who appoints them, but most of our board members have been great members regardless of their political affiliation
  - What do you love the most about Virginia Tech?
    - The sense of community here

- How can the AP faculty senate help the president and university?
  - The current Job Architecture project is a distinct issue currently
  - We need to get it correct as a university

## 7. **Other Items**

No other items of discussion

## 8. **Announcements**

- Make sure to go to Staff Appreciation Day and get some free food and swag!

## 9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 am