

MINUTES

AP Faculty Senate
July 15, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

Present – Marlena Lester (presiding), Janice Austin, Alford Judy, Jennifer Jones, Alix Guynn, JC Whidden, Ruth Wallace, Erica Cooper, Terri Pecora, Elissa Waybright, Nicole Akers, Susan Gill, Julie McClafferty, Robert Emmett, Nikki Connors, Shelton Norwood, Caitlin Fanning, Jonathan Bradley, Alison Whittaker, Karen Sanders, Paul Taylor, James Newcomer, Melissa Wright

Absent with Notice: Nick Woods, Eric Bowen, Jes Davis

Absent:

Guests: Monte Hager, Nasim Schwab, Rebakah Gunn, Ryan Sands, Sarah Armstrong, Trevor Hughes, Truitt Elliott, Jenni Gallagher, Jenny Vicent, Julie Rhoads, Kieran Lindsey, Lauren Thomas, M.L. Logan, Melanie Fox, Michele Messner, Chris Yianilos, April Myers, Carrie Cox, Cheri Warren, Chris Allen, Dee-Dee Somervell, Holli Drewry, Michelle Dalton

Marlena Lester called the meeting to order at 10:05. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

2. Approval or announcement of approval and posting of minutes of June 17, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 17, 2026, minutes. The vote passed.

3. Unfinished Business

Second Reading A/P Faculty Senate Bylaw Revisions

Rob Emmett presented on changes. Janice Austin made a motion for us to discuss and vote on AP Faculty Senate Bylaw Revisions. The motion was seconded by Susan Gill. The motion passed and the changes were adopted.

Vote Totals

- Yes – 20
- Abstain – 1
- No – 0

4. New Business

Treasurer's Report

Nikki Connors: The budget would have reset with the new fiscal year.

CAPFA

Nikki Connors: CAPFA is on summer break so nothing to report.

Communications

Susan Gill: Going to work on doing an organized newsletter and will be transitioning to SharePoint newsletters which will visually look better.

Elections and Nominations

Marlena Lester: Elections trying to fill all commissions and committee assignments. Erica Cooper is our new Secretary/Treasurer. Two open positions for Research Senators. Since we are out of cycle for elections, they will be appointed to a 1-year term.

Policy and Issues

Rob Emmett: No meetings since May. Identified 4-5 topics they would like to work on. Some of these activities include updates to the faculty handbook and working more with CAPFA, leave benefits, and interest to have someone from HR speak about the education benefit. The committee will work to establish Professional Development as a standing committee in our governing documents.

Professional Development

Alix Guynn: A few summer meetings. Topics about professional development for staff. They have had some survey feedback and they have been looking at results.

5. Presentation

- Chris Yianilos, Vice President for Government & Community Relations, The Federal and State Government Landscape & Virginia Tech 2026. A brief discussion followed this presentation.
- Carrie Cox, Executive Director for Transportation and Logistics, Parking and Fleet Services Update. A brief discussion followed this presentation.

6. Announcements

- Installation of the senators and officers for the next term!
- A/P Faculty Senate Presidential Search Listening Session The date will be August 27 at 9 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Please take the Community Survey!
- Please join one of the standing committees of the A/P Faculty Senate.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at noon.