



Faculty Senate

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

<https://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/>

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2024 @ 2:30 – 4:15 pm

Torgersen 1000 or Via Zoom

Check-In:

Present: Rachel Miles (presiding), Luke Achenie, Diane Agud, Rick Ashley, Azziza Bankole, Manish Bansal, Kristen Benson, Jan Heldge Bøhn, Warren Booth, Bradley Bowen, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Young Cao, Kevin Cheng, Joshua Clemons, Rebecca Cockrum, Carolyn Commer, Nick Copeland, Carolyn Copenheaver, Candace Fitch, Mark Freeman, Rodney Gaines, Yuba Gautam, Aaron Gross, Wes Gwaltney, James Hawdon, Leanna House, Mantu Hudait, Joseph Hughes, Scott Huxtable, Laura Iancu, Eli Jamison, Ran Jin, Bryan Katz, Alex Kinnaman, Jake Lahne, Catherine Laroche, Evan Lavender-Smith, Renee LeClair, Justin Lemkul, Kimberly Loeffert, Gary Long, Charles Lowery, G.Q. Lu, Jason Malone, Eric Martin, Luca Massa, Michelle Maycock, Joel McGlothlin, Harold McKenzie, Joe Merola, Sherif Motaleb Abdelaziz, Phil Nelson, Gregory Novack, Nicole Pitterson, John Richey, Nazila Roofigari-Esfahan, Steven Rowson, Ian Shoemaker, Richard Shryock, Stephanie Smith (Communications), Stephanie Smith (SPIA), Jay Teets, Chelsea Thompto, Jim Tokuhisa, Byron Tsang, Kwokleung Tsui, Alp Tural (alternate for Bill Green), Bimal Viswanath, Jeff Walling, Jerald Walz, Terri-Ann Wattsman, Erin Worthington

Guests: April Myers, Demetria Somervell

Absent with Notice: Sarah Karpanty

Absent: Biko Agozino, Paul Avey, Lisa Belden, Anamaria Bukvic, Sherwood Clements, Mark Coggins, Logan Dandridge, Kristy Daniels, Maria del Carmen Caña-Jiménez, Matt Eick, John Entwistle, Scott Gartner, Bill Green, David Gregory, Rebecca Hester, Dan Hindman, Casey Jim, Silvio Macias, Ali Mehrizi-Sani, Zhange Nicole Ni, Albert Pan, Nino Ripepi, Syrenthia Robinson, Adrian Sandu, Karen Schnatterly, Eric Stanley, Keith Stephenson, Shane Wang, Ashley Wilkinson, Angelica Witcher, David Xie, Yan Xu, Diane Zahm, Lizette Zietsman

Call to Order by the President Rachel Miles at 2:33

Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Rachel Miles)

- Consent agenda, which included meeting minutes and agenda, was adopted:
 - Minutes for 04-26-2024 ([Link](#))
 - Agenda for 08-30-2024 ([Link](#))

Business Agenda

Unfinished Business

1. Updates & Announcements
 - a. Updates from committees and commissions will be posted on the Faculty Senate SharePoint site. There are no updates at this time.
 - b. Senators who invite guests should contact the Faculty Senate Operations Officer to obtain the Zoom link and password. This will assist with meeting coordination and logistics.
 - c. The 2024 American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Faculty in the South Survey was due at 5:00 PM on August 30. The link for the survey was provided for any senators wishing to respond.

New Business

2. Rachel Miles announced the selection of representatives from each College and University Libraries for Faculty Senate Cabinet. Cabinet members are part of the Faculty Senate leadership team, meet on alternate Fridays from the Faculty Senate, and hold a one-year term.
 - a. Senators from the Colleges listed below, and from University Libraries, met to choose a representative. The following representatives were selected and agreed to serve:
 - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: Jerald Walz
 - College of Engineering: Jan Heldge Bøhn
 - College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences: Jim Hawdon
 - College of Natural Resources and Environment: Carolyn Copenheaver
 - College of Science: Diane Agud
 - Pamplin College of Business: Jason Malone
 - University Libraries: Alex Kinnaman
 - Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine: Renee LeClaire
 - b. Senators from the College of Architecture, Arts and Design and the College of Veterinary Medicine will meet at another time to select a representative.
3. Rachel Miles announced the election of representatives for University Council, the Commission on Research, and the Commission on Faculty Affairs (CFA). There are no current nominees for these positions. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The roles of University Council and shared governance commissions were briefly explained.

- a. The floor was opened for nominations for the Commission on Research to fill one position with a two-year term.
 - i. A self-nomination was received by Manish Bansal and an election was conducted.
 - ii. Manish Bansal was elected as representative to the Commission on Research (59 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)
 - b. The floor was opened for nominations to fill positions on the Commission on Faculty Affairs.
 - i. A self-nomination was received from Jake Lahne to fill a 3-year term
 - ii. A self-nomination was received from Joel McGlothlin to fill a 1-year term.
 - iii. An election was conducted. Results follow:
 - Jake Lahne was elected as representative to CFA for a three-year term (57 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain)
 - Joel McGlothlin was elected as representative to CFA for a one-year term (59 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)
 - iv. A substitute is still needed to serve on CFA for the fall semester. Elections will be held at the next Faculty Senate meeting. An email with details will be distributed to senators.
 - c. Representatives for University Council are needed from the College of Natural Resources and Environment; the College of Architecture, Arts and Design; and the College of Veterinary Medicine. No nominations were received. This item of business will be included in the next Faculty Senate meeting.
4. Rachel Miles presented faculty senate nominees for the University Council Cabinet for ratification. Nominees are listed below. Voting was conducted and both were approved.
- a. Evan Lavendar-Smith, Faculty Senate Vice President (60 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain)
 - b. Justin Lemkul, Faculty Senate Operations Officer (60 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstain)
5. Faculty Senate president Rachel Miles serves as the Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors (BOV) and presented an update from the August BOV meeting.
- a. The Faculty Constituency report presented to the BOV is available on the Faculty Senate SharePoint and the BOV website. The report focused on engagement with faculty, increased communication and transparency, faculty concerns regarding the Global Distinction initiative, and the need for increased recognition for service activities.

- b. Information about a policy focused on student athlete participation in name, image, and likeness was presented and is available on the Faculty Senate SharePoint site.
- c. Academic Resource Alignment was discussed at the BOV retreat. The purpose of this alignment is to help fund the Global Distinction Initiative.
 - i. Graduate and undergraduate courses and programs will be evaluated from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives.
 - ii. A committee will be appointed, chaired by Provost Cyril Clarke. The Faculty Senate can recommend a volunteer to the committee.
 - iii. Questions were asked about departments that do not have a large number of graduates but provide pathways courses. The Faculty Senate will try to obtain further information about this issue.
- d. Policy 5000, University Real Property (Building, Grounds, Infrastructure) Usage and Events, was updated and approved by the BOV. The policy is available on the [Policy Library](#), but a summary of major changes was presented. Discussion included the following:
 - i. University events and activities such as tailgating are allowed under the policy.
 - ii. Concern that there was no faculty voice in the changes to the policy. There was discussion of administrative policies like Policy 5000 that do not go through governance. The Faculty Senate would like to see the university include faculty in subjects like this even if they do not go through shared governance.
 - iii. Senators asked whether a track changes version of the policy or the previous version are available. Faculty Senate officers will look for this
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6. The Global Distinction Initiative.

- a. Rachel Miles provided an update on the Global Distinction Initiative from information received at the BOV retreat and meeting.
 - i. Two main themes related to the Global Distinction Initiative were presented, Health Sciences and the Commonwealth Cybersecurity Initiative. The Virginia Tech Advantage is a separate initiative but impacts Global Distinction.
 - ii. Virginia Tech must be aligned with AAU metrics to achieve Global Distinction, and a summary of the metrics was provided.
 - iii. Faculty questions regarding the Global Distinction Initiative were shared with the BOV, along with the need for additional faculty representation on the steering committee.

- b. Continued discussion included the topic of University Mission Initiatives (UMI) as described in the University Council Constitution and whether Global Distinction falls under this category. Information about UMIs and the Principles of Shared Governance can be found in the [University Council Constitution](#).
- c. Additional discussion focused on areas of concern including impacts to arts and humanities, metrics used for AAU, how required metrics may impact department-level policies and tenure, and investments that are required to attain and maintain Global Distinction.

Open Floor Discussion

- 7. Limited discussion on service requirements implemented by certain departments that are additional to research and teaching requirements. The Commission on Faculty Affairs expects to discuss this during the academic year.
- 8. Brief discussion of classroom space and availability. This was a topic of discussion during Faculty Senate meetings last year with concerns continuing. Information was gathered on this topic last year.

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 4:15 p.m.