



Faculty Senate

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

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

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2024 @ 2:30 – 4:15 pm

Torgersen 1000 or Via Zoom

Check-In:

Present: Justin Lemkul (presiding), Luke Achenie, Biko Agozino, Rick Ashley, Paul Avey, Azziza Bankole, Manish Bansal, Jan Helge Bøhn, Warren Booth, Bradley Bowen, Virginia Buechner-Maxwell, Anamaria Bukvic, Anamaria Bukvic, Kevin Cheng, Joshua Clemons, Rebecca Cockrum, Carolyn Commer, Carolyn Copenheaver, Logan Dandridge, Maria del Carmen Caña-Jiménez, Matt Eick, Candace Fitch, Rodney Gaines, Scott Gartner, Yuba Gautam, Wes Gwaltney, James Hawdon, Dan Hindman, Leanna House, Mantu Hudait, Scott Huxtable, Laura Iancu (alternate for Logan Dandridge), Ran Jin, Bryan Katz, Bryan Katz, Alex Kinnaman, Matthew Komelski (alternate for Kristen Benson), Jake Lahne, Catherine Larochelle, Kimberly Loeffert, Gary Long, G.Q. Lu, Jason Malone, Eric Martin, Luca Massa, Shelly Maycock, Joel McGlothlin, Joe Merola, Marc Michel, Sherif Motaleb Abdelaziz, Phil Nelson, Zhange Nicole Ni, Gregory Novack, Albert Pan, Nicole Pitterson, Ian Shoemaker, Richard Shryock, Stephanie Smith (SPIA), Jay Teets, Chelsea Thompto, Jim Tokuhisa, Byron Tsang, Kwok Tsui, Alp Tural (alternate for Bill Green), Bimal Viswanath, Jerald Walz, Terri-Ann Wattsman, Donna Wertalik (alternate for Yan Xu), Angelica Witcher, Erin Worthington, David Xie, Diane Zahm, Lizette Zietsman

Guests: April Myers, Demetria Somervell

Absent with Notice: Diane Agud, Kristen Benson, Sherwood Clements, Nick Copeland, Evan Lavender-Smith, Renee LeClair, Charles “Chuck” Lowery, Rachel Miles, Karen Schnatterly

Absent: Lisa Belden, Mark Coggins, Kristy Daniels, John Entwistle, Bill Green, David Gregory, Aaron Gross, Rebecca Hester, Joseph Hughes, Eli Jamison, Casey Jim, Sarah Karpanty, Silvio Macias, Harold McKenzie, Ali Mehrizi-Sani, John Richey, Nino Ripepi, Syrenthia Robinson, Nazila Roofigari-Esfahan, Steven Rowson, Adrian Sandu, Stephanie Smith (Communications), Eric Stanley, Keith Stephenson, Jeff Walling, Shane Wang, Ashley Wilkinson, Yan Xu

Call to Order by the Faculty Senate Operations Officer Justin Lemkul at 2:35

Election of Chair Pro Tempore.

- In the absence of the Faculty Senate President and Vice President, Robert's Rules of Order grants the Operations Officer (secretary) the ability to convene a meeting. However, a Chair Pro Tempore must be elected to conduct further business.
- The floor was opened for nominations for Chair Pro Tempore. Justin Lemkul was nominated. No additional nominations.
- Justin Lemkul was elected Chair Pro Tempore (Voting: 40 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain).

Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Rachel Miles)

- Consent agenda was adopted:
 - Minutes for 11-08-2024 ([Link](#))
 - Agenda for 11-22-2024 ([Link](#))

Business Agenda

1. Updates & Announcements
 - a. Senators are needed from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Natural Resources and Environment to fill vacancies on the University Council. Meeting information was provided, and the floor was opened for nominations.
 - i. Daivd Xie was nominated as representative for the College of Veterinary Medicine.
 - ii. Senators from the College of Natural Resources and Environment were asked to discuss the vacancy for their department and to notify Rachel Miles and Justin Lemkul if willing to serve.
 - iii. Elections for representatives to University Council will be held at the December 6 Faculty Senate meeting.
 - b. There is one vacancy on the Academics Committee. This committee will meet only once, in February. The floor was opened for nominations.
 - i. Dan Hindman was nominated for the Faculty Honorifics Committee.
 - ii. Elections for the Faculty Honorifics Committee vacancy will be held at the December 6 Faculty Senate meeting.
 - c. The Staff and Non-Student Wage Compensation Task Force was convened in response to CSPA (Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs) Resolution 2024-25A, Resolution to Form a Task Force to Review Compensation for Staff and Non-Student Wage Employees.

- i. The task force membership includes faculty members, senate membership is not required.
- ii. Senators were asked to distribute this volunteer service opportunity to their departments and faculty associations. Please let Rachel Miles and Justin Lemkul know if interested.

Unfinished Business

2. Justin Lemkul presented for 2nd Reading and Vote CFA 2024-25E: Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook Regarding Procedures for Promotion and Tenure and Related Appeals. The resolution streamlines procedures, provides clarity, and includes changes that reflect current practice.
 - a. No additional comments have been received and no changes made since the Faculty Senate's first reading.
 - b. Motion was made and seconded to approve CFA 2024-25E: Resolution to Amend the Faculty Handbook Regarding Procedures for Promotion and Tenure and Related Appeals. Motion carried. Voting: (63 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

New Business

3. Justin Lemkul introduced Tyler Walters, Dean of University Libraries, who provided information on University Libraries initiatives focused on research services and expertise. These services can be utilized by Virginia Tech faculty to increase impact and global distinction.
 - a. Key research services include the following.
 - i. Research Data Services, including assistance with data management plans, curation services, and data visualization services.
 - ii. Scholarly Repository Services, including VTechWorks. Details were provided about Virginia Tech's Open Access Policy.
 - iii. Evidence Synthesis Services, including in-depth workshops, information about evidence synthesis methods, and support for systematic reviews.
 - iv. Research Impact and Intelligence Services focused on helping Virginia Tech understand and grow its global impact and reputation, industry and market intelligence, consultations, and discovering potential collaborators.

- v. Publishing, including Virginia Tech Publishing and the upcoming University Press of Virginia Tech which will include peer reviewed works.
 - vi. Emerging Technologies provides studios offering training on advanced hardware and software in areas such as 3D scanning, media recording, prototyping, and virtual environments.
 - In addition to the studios, the library has a technology lending desk. The lending desk has seen increased usage in the past year.
 - A list of available equipment was provided
 - b. University Libraries is a partner in research and scholarship at Virginia Tech, with services designed to assist faculty in both their work and elevating global impact. Links were provided to [University Library's Research Support](#) services and to subscribe to the University Library's Research Services newsletter.
4. Jim Hawdon presented updates to the Faculty Senate Bylaws for first reading. These updates focus on Article VIII, Section 1, Committee on Faculty Ethics.
- a. Currently, this section does not provide committee procedures. Suggested updates are meant to convey current practice, after the decision is made to file a formal complaint.
 - i. Updates include specific details such as the point of contact and method of communication for complaints, required information, and the steps to be taken following receipt of a complaint.
 - ii. Three possible outcomes and applicable next steps are outlined.
 - b. Comments and concerns were shared regarding the following:
 - i. The three outcomes listed may not include all possible scenarios.
 - ii. The role of the Faculty Senate President as the first contact for the process may cause questions about confidentiality and inhibit faculty from proceeding. Clarification was provided that the Faculty Senate President is not privy to the case details or outcome but provides logistical oversight to the process.
 - iii. Discussion on the role of the committee chair.
 - iv. Comments gathered will be provided to the Policies and Procedures Committee.
5. The planned discussion about information technology will be rescheduled for another date.

Open Floor Discussion

6. A motion was made and seconded to observe a moment of silence for a construction worker on Virginia Tech's campus who fell and passed away on November 6. The motion was unanimously approved.
 - a. The Faculty Senate thanks the workers for their efforts to maintain our campus and our infrastructure which is central and necessary to the university's academic mission.
7. A Global Distinction Feedback and Implementation Subcommittee has been established and will be chaired by the President of the Faculty Senate, Rachel Miles. This subcommittee will ensure that the global distinction steering committee is informed and responsive to input provided by the campus committee. Rachel is working to staff this subcommittee, and senators were asked to watch for future information. Rachel is also a member of the steering committee.
8. The Faculty Senate of Virginia met in November. Discussion included the Virginia Day of Advocacy, scheduled for January 9. The senate will meet to discuss items to bring forward on that day. Please let Rodney Gaines know if there is anything that the Virginia Tech Faculty Senate feels should be shared with the Faculty Senate of Virginia for the Day of Advocacy.
9. A campus notice about Microsoft storage changes at Virginia Tech distributed in the November 21 Daily News. Senators expressed concern about the information contained in the article, including data limits, impacts to OneDrive, SharePoint, Teams, and Groups. Similarities with the Google changes experienced last year were mentioned. This topic could be included in the Faculty Senate discussion with Information Technology.

Motion to adjourn and seconded at 3:27 p.m.