



FACULTY SENATE
Est. 1991

Peggy Moch
President

Mike Holt
**Vice President/
President Elect**

Sudip Chakraborty
Secretary

Sean Lennon
Parliamentarian

Michael Noll
Past President

Minutes
February 18, 2016, 3:30 pm
University Center Magnolia Room

Items in **bold print** are items that require action by the Faculty Senate. Other items are for information only.

Special Request: At the request of the Senate's Executive Committee, any actions sent to the President for possible inclusion in the Senate agenda should be accompanied by a written document with the rationale and purpose of the decision. The Executive Committee requests that these documents be submitted via email as Word.doc attachments.

For the benefit of record keeping, we ask that senators and visitors please identify themselves when speaking to an issue during the meeting. Please use the microphones to assist with accurate recording. All senators must sign the roster in order to be counted present. If you have a senator's proxy, please place their name tag beside your name tag on the table in front of you.

1. Call to Order – Peggy Moch

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 PM

- a. Senate voting procedures
- b. Chancellor's visit 1/27/2016
- c. Gun carry Bill 859
- d. Faculty Evaluations of Administrators will be emailed out on 2/5/2016 and should be completed by noon on 2/26/2016
- e. Election of new Vice President/President Elect for 2016-2017 – nominations are to be made at the March 2016 meeting and the election will be held at the April 2016 meeting per the FS Bylaws
- f. All statutory and standing committee 2015-2016 end of year reports are due to FS President no later than April 30, 2016.

In her opening remarks, Faculty Senate President, Dr. Peggy Moch, mentioned the need for revisiting the Faculty Senate bylaws for voting procedures. She debriefed the audience about USG Chancellor's visit to VSU campus on January 27, 2016. Dr. Moch also reminded senators and various committee chairs about the items c – f above.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**

<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/minutes.php> (See link here for minutes for all faculty senate meetings).

A motion was made to approve the minutes with a friendly amendment (correcting misspelling of Michelle Ocasio's name in item 7. vii.) and it was seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved with one abstention.

3. Reading of proxies obtained prior to the meeting; Request additional proxies for those not given from Senators in attendance – Sudip Chakraborty.

The following were the proxies: Linda Jurczak for Abigail Heuss, Shannon Lowe for Kalina Winska, Jacob Jewusiak for Marty Williams, Karen Acosta for Kelly Devall, Fleming Bell for Victoria Russell, Regina Suriel for Grazyna Walczak, Eric Howington for Luis Gonzalez, David Kuhlmeier for Gary Futrell, Nancy Sartin for Patti Campbell, Shaunita Strozier for Rudo Tsemunhu, Donald Thieme for Diane Wright, Stacey Walters for Serina McEntire, and Michelle Ritter for Maura Schlairet.

Note: Please send an email to Sudip Chakraborty (schakraborty@valdosta.edu) regarding proxies a minimum of one (1) week prior to the scheduled Faculty Senate meeting or as soon as possible if an unexpected absence needs to occur.

4. Interim VSU President, Dr. Cecil Staton: VSU Updates

President Staton started with an update on enrollment – VSU has gained significant growth in the current number of applications compared to the same day last year. He then mentioned the following items:

- (i) \$1.16M to renovate Pine Hall has been included in House budget.*
- (ii) No tuition or fee increase for 2016-17.*
- (iii) The Guns on Campus bill (HB 859) passed in House.*
- (iv) In the week of February 22 VSU day will be observed in Capital and both chambers will listen to things honoring VSU.*
- (v) VSU alumni Stuart Parker will talk in upcoming Graduation Ceremony on May 7. He is the CEO of USAA and oversees 28,000 employees. President Staton believes that Mr. Parker's talk will be inspiring to our graduating students.*

There were no questions from the audience for President Staton.

5. SGA President, David L. Burdette: Academic Forgiveness Bill (Attachment A – remand to Educational Policies); ROTC Bill (Attachment B – remand to Educational Policies); Student Health Center (Attachment C – remand to Institutional Planning)

SGA Vice President, Ms. Kavanagh, and SGA Senator, Matthew Cowan, presented a summary of a modified version of the SGA Academic Forgiveness bill. They presented a version which was modified on the Faculty Senate meeting date but was not same as provided in Attachment A in the FS agenda. Modified copies were distributed to the senators present. There were several questions and comments made during their presentation. Answering questions from faculty senators the SGA representatives asserted that the bill was not retroactive; neither was it replacing academic grading policies. It was commented that the changes might prevent good students from taking a course due to a greater number of students retaking a course. It was acknowledged that the old grade could not be removed from the transcript. Faculty senators wondered whether any other schools in Georgia had similar policies and Matthew mentioned a few. Concerns regarding area E were expressed and it was observed that 5 retakes was too high compared to more a more reasonable 2 retakes. The SGA representatives were told the Academic Forgiveness Bill was being remanded to the Education Policies Committee.

The SGA representatives were told that the ROTC bill (attachment B) was remanded to the Educational Policies Committee and they will work with the Registrar's office for this item.

SGA representatives also presented an update on use of a call service to eliminate Saturday hours in Student Health Center. Faculty senators wondered whether the call service was in Valdosta or how a service without actual personnel would help. It was mentioned that these call

services always advise patients following strict protocols. The SGA was commended for their effort to help students without adult guardians on campus. SGA mentioned the call service was already in place and hence the faculty senate found the need to remand the proposal to the Institutional Planning Committee unnecessary.

6. Old & Unfinished Business

a. Statutory Committee Reports

i. Academic Committee – Sheri Gravett; Report located at

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php>

Dr. Gravett stated the minutes were available online. She highlighted the Criminal Justice program had been converted to a BS degree from a BA degree. There were no questions during discussion and the changes were accepted by a unanimous vote.

ii. Committee on Committees – Kalina Winska: Progress on assignments?

Dr. Dereth Drake presented the report on behalf of Ms. Winska. The report mentioned the following:

College of A&S ran an election to fill senator seats due to resignations. The newly elected senators will begin their terms in Fall 2016. The Committee thanked everyone who voted to elect the chair of the Faculty Grievance Committee. Dr. Arsalan Wares will be the chair for the remainder of the academic term. In March there will be another election to fill the position for the term beginning in Fall 2016. The committee was still awaiting election results for Senate and Statutory committees from COBA, CONHS, and COEHS. It was also reported that the committee will meet soon to assign newly elected senators to different committees. The CoCo will create and send new survey to these senators and general faculty in order to fill available seats on Standing Committees.

iii. Faculty Affairs – Alicja Rieger: Progress on assignments?

It was reported that the committee met on Wednesday, February 17, but there was no specific report.

iv. Faculty Grievance Committee – Vacant: Any report?

There was no report.

v. Institutional Planning Committee – Donald Thieme: Any report?

There was no report.

b. Meeting minutes from the various committees should be sent to FS Secretary (Sudip Chakraborty (schakraborty@valdosta.edu)) to be uploaded to the Faculty Senate website **AND** to the library (archives@valdosta.edu) with “Archives Faculty Senate Papers” in the subject line. Minutes from 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 meetings from the various committees should be sent so these documents can be archived properly. Please label minutes documents as shown in the following examples:

i. Technology_Minutes_04-29-2015

ii. Academic_Honors_and_Scholarship_Minutes_08-28-2015

Thank you for your assistance in getting our records keeping up to date. ☺

c. Work is continuing on the updating of the VSU Statutes. The proposed statutes are under review by the Vice Presidents and the University Attorney.

7. New Business

a. Standing Committee Reports: No reports received

i. Academic Scheduling & Procedures – Katharine Lamb

ii. Academic Honors & Scholarships – Michael Meacham

iii. Athletic Committee – Peggy Moch

iv. Environmental Issues – Arsalan Wares

- v. Educational Policies – Jacob M. Jewusiak
- vi. Faculty Scholarship – Maura Schlairet – Received Bylaws
- vii. Library Affairs – Michelle Ann Ocasio
- viii. Internationalization and Globalization Committee – Fleming Bell
- ix. Diversity and Equity – Karen Acosta
- x. Student Affairs – Kelly Davidson Devall
- xi. Technology Committee – Mike Holt

- b. Faculty Course Reassigned Time Request Policy: See Attachment D – remand Faculty Affairs.
It was wondered what were the specific charges to the committee regarding the document. Dr. Moch mentioned the document came from the Dean’s Council. Some semantic difficulties were noted in the document (attachment D).
- c. Request to post Faculty Senate Committee documents online: See Attachment E – remand Faculty Senate Secretary.
It was mentioned the work to organize the faculty senate webpage has been ongoing and a search for a new graduate student assistant was currently underway.
- d. Concerns about the new graduation procedure from a student: See attachment F – Remand Institutional Planning

8. General Discussion

Web services announced the redesign of Faculty Portal that, from now onward, will be known as the Success Portal. Handouts with information related to the webpage were distributed.

- a. Could the senate meeting schedule be amended so that the May meeting was simply an online compilation of end of the year reports from each statutory and standing committee submitted to the FS President by the end of April?
There was a general discussion on the rationale of the senate meeting schedule amendment making the May meeting an online compilation of end-of-year reports. Several senators agreed it was an excellent idea. Michael Holt, Debbie Paine, and Sean Lennon agreed to work on the bylaws to make the above amendment.
Another concern related to the 4 week timeline to add items to senate meeting agenda was voiced. Faculty Senate President Moch explained the reason for such a timeline, but iterated that any item can be added to the meeting agenda after “call to order” with a seconded motion and 2/3 majority.
- b. A great deal of work needs to be done on the FS bylaws to make them more reflective of practice and to make procedures such as voting or the PBC faculty member more transparent, and not relegated to someone’s institutional memory or lack thereof in any given situation.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Sudip Chakraborty

Attachment A:

Student Government Association Resolution

Bill #14-12
Academic Forgiveness Bill

Date: November 10, 2014
Revised: January 20, 2015

Authored by: Senator Matthew Cowan, Senator Christopher Hellams
Sponsored by: Senator Anyanwu, Cato, Poe,

Be it enacted by the Senate of Valdosta State University (VSU) here assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the calculation of a current or future student's grade point average toward a degree be calculated by replacing a lower course grade completed by the higher attempted course grade on the student academic record,

WHEREAS, this policy will replace the current policy where an average of the course' attempted hours total the new grade after a class is retaken at Valdosta State University.

WHEREAS, the suggested policy will allow for the term GPA and overall attempted GPA hours to coincide and reflect only courses taken and courses that were retaken with the highest grade replacing the lowest grade, Also policy will only show an Institutional GPA that will be separate from a student's actual transfer GPA recorded by other institutions,

WHEREAS, this will ensure that hours are represented accurately and recorded representative of the hours that were calculated from the student's highest attempt after retaking a course. The final GPA will then reflect the highest Institutional GPA at Valdosta State University which will not be included towards a student's transfer GPA, calculated GPA used by state and federal laws for financial aid purposes, and only allow for courses that are retaken that have received a grade of D or lower on the traditional grading scale,

WHEREAS, implementation of this new policy may improve the enrollment and retention rates of Valdosta State University,

WHEREAS, upon enactment of this bill any current student and future student will be allowed to retake a class and have only the highest course grade reflected in the GPA,

WHEREAS, this policy will only be allowed for up to 5 replacements per student,

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association Senators have collected signatures of students in favor of this policy change,

THEREFORE be it enacted, the Student Government Association recommends to the VSU Faculty Senate and the University Administration that the current academic grading system, for a student who is enrolled at Valdosta State University, be replaced by the suggested grading scale. Also let this show that the attached petitions reflect the consent of students currently attending Valdosta State University who agree that the current grading system be replaced by the policy mentioned above.

FINALLY, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the highest grade of a taken course is the only grade reflected on any current or future student's Grade Point Average.

Attachment B:

Student Government Association Resolution

RESOLUTION # 15-14
PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS DET. 172
STUDENTS

Date: November 2, 2015

Authored by: Senator Pollack, Vice President Kavanaugh, President Burdette

Sponsored by: Senator Holloway

Be it enacted by the Senate of Valdosta State University (VSU) here assembled, that:

WHEREAS, Valdosta State University is deemed a “military-friendly” university, and is centrally located near Moody Air Force Base, where courses are offered on base, and

WHEREAS, VSU offers an aerospace program towards officer training in the United States Air Force (USAF), as a part of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, and

WHEREAS, SGA has been contacted by several cadets and officers in ROTC Detachment 172 to assist in giving priority registration to the cadets and participants in the program, and

WHEREAS, the ROTC program is composed of over one-hundred (100) cadets and participants each year, and is a part of three (3) detachments in the state of Georgia and one (1) of one hundred-forty-eight (148) detachments nationwide, and

WHEREAS, specific parts of their program are mandated by the USAF, such as physical training (PT), and such qualifications are required for course instruction, such as a Master’s Degree, and

WHEREAS, this has posed a problem for some cadets and participants to register for core curriculum courses, or courses not required for the ROTC program, but courses required for graduation from this institution, and

WHEREAS, priority registration is often called “Early Registration,” which is given out to certain groups or departments on campus, and due to mandatory ROTC coursework, will allow cadets and participants to organize and plan out courses before registration is available to the majority of the student body, and

WHEREAS, in accordance to the Student Government Association Action Plan, this has exposed Senators to additional student feedback and the need for improvement, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon passage by the Student Government Association of Valdosta State University, this resolution will carry the support of the student body of Valdosta State University, and

FINALLY, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Student Government Association recommends to the Faculty Senate and Registrar to allow ROTC Detachment 172 cadets and participants to register early for courses.

Attachment C:

Student Government Association Resolution

**RESOLUTION # 15-15
USE OF A CALL SERVICE TO ELIMINATE SATURDAY HOURS -
STUDENT HEALTH CENTER**

Date: November 16, 2015

Authored by: Senator Krumbacher

Sponsored by: Senator Pollack

Be it enacted by the Senate of Valdosta State University (VSU) here assembled, that:

WHEREAS, the Student Health Center at Valdosta State University is currently open on Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm, Friday 8am-2:30pm and Saturday 10am-2pm, and

WHEREAS, the Saturday hours cost the Student Health Center, which is funded through the students' tuition, between \$486 and \$671 every week, and

WHEREAS, the Student Health Center at Valdosta State University currently has no call service or emergency contact for after hours health issues or accidents, and students would have to go to South Georgia Medical Center or another health provider nearby, and

WHEREAS, the purchase of a call service, in return of closing the Student Health Center on Saturday, would result in significantly lower costs, and

WHEREAS, a call service would offer a number to call 24 hours a day , 7 days a week, and speak to a health care provider, and

WHEREAS, the Saturday operating hours were implemented in 2010, when the demand was as high as an average of 11 students using the Health Center on Saturday, but recently, the demand has been declining over the past five (5) years to an average of three (3) students on Saturdays, and

WHEREAS, according to the data, having a call service would better help the students' health needs by providing manageable service in a timely fashion, as well as it would significantly lower costs, and

WHEREAS, in order to better access this call service, especially in an emergency, the University Police Department (UPD) number will be printed on the backside of the VSU IDs (1Card) and the UPD will be able forward the call to the call service, and

WHEREAS, in accordance to the Student Government Association Action Plan, this has exposed Senators to additional student feedback and the need for improvement, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon passage by the Student Government Association of Valdosta State University, this resolution will carry the support of the student body of Valdosta State University, and

FINALLY, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Student Government Association recommends to the Student Health Center that the Saturday hours be canceled and a call service be purchased.

Attachment D:

Faculty Course Reassigned Time Request Policy and Process

Tenured and tenure track faculty who undertake certain extraordinary service related to the academic mission of the University may be eligible for a reduction in their regular teaching load during their term of service. Roles that may qualify for service-related course reassignment include, but are not limited to, the following: Department Head, Program Directors, or faculty assigned other extraordinary service commitments in line with the University's mission and values. Roles that may not qualify for service-related course release include, but are not limited to, the following: work done as part of normal faculty workload (teaching, scholarship, and service activities—including committee membership, directing conferences, editing journals, providing leadership in professional organizations, or holding paid consultantships (unless an outside agency provides funding to the Institution for the reassigned time).

All faculty seeking reassigned time from their normal teaching obligation must complete the Faculty Course Reassigned-Time Request Form (FCRR) prior to any reduction in course load. The individual faculty member is responsible for initiating and completing the FCRR at least a semester before the reassignment is requested. (If the reassignment is conditioned upon external funding, submit the FRR concurrently with the submission of the funding request.) The faculty member should submit a completed FCRR to the Department Chair/Center Director/Program Supervisor for review. If approved, the FCRR progresses next to the Dean, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and President for their review and approval. At each level, the amount of service required for the role will be taken into consideration as well as equity concerns across the Institution.

The form must be completed and fully approved prior to the start of any requested reassigned time, and before the BANNER Schedule is submitted to the Registrar's Office (normally early August for following spring semester and early January for fall semester.). No reassigned time will be granted unless, and until, the Faculty Course Reassigned Time Request Form (FCRR) is fully approved by the President through the appropriate channels (via Head/Director, Dean, and Provost). These guidelines do not apply to staff members.

Faculty who receive reassigned time from their regular teaching load should recognize that they are expected to fulfill their departmental and College service obligations. The University, the Provost, or operating unit, may discontinue, temporarily suspend, or alter a Reassigned Time approval of any faculty member based on institutional needs. This decision is not subject to the grievance procedure or grievance policies.

For applicable forms or questions please contact the Valdosta State University Office of Academic Affairs.

**FACULTY COURSE REASSIGNED TIME REQUEST (FCRR)
FORM**

Date: _____ Department: _____

Faculty Name: _____ Rank: _____

Semester (for reassignment): ____ Fall ____ Spring Year: _____

of Credit Hours to be Reassigned: _____

Is Extra Compensation also being provided for this activity?: ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, Amount \$ _____ Source: _____

Describe purpose of reassignment from normal teaching load: _____

Specific Outcomes Expected:

Method of Evaluation and Report Due Date:

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Director/Department Head

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Dean

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
President

NOTE: The form must be completed and fully approved prior to the start of any requested time, and before the Master Schedule is due to the Registrar's Office (normally early August for the following Spring Semester and early January for Fall Semester).

Attachment E:

To: President Moch

From: linda pysher jurczak

Date: January 27, 2016

Re: Item for the February Senate Agenda

I respectfully request that the Faculty Senate webpage include documentation from all committee meetings.

It would be beneficial, and enhance the notion of transparency, if the Faculty Senate webpage included the minutes from all committee meetings held during the course of the year. As a body, we have no idea who is actually attending committee meetings and making decisions at that level. This is important because we should be able to see who is actually doing the work in committees, and it also ensures input from a variety of perspectives.

Attachment F:

Subject: Graduation Changes from a Disappointed Student

To whom it may concern,

I have attended Valdosta State University since my first semester as a freshman, I have stayed true to Valdosta State since day one and have accepted the many changes that have happened in the past years but the new commencement changes for Spring 2016 are unacceptable. I think as a graduating student, along with many others who have dedicated our time and resources to this university we should have a majority say on how commencement will go. If changes need to be done, it needs to be addressed to the entire graduating student body. If the current changes stay intact, the best day of my life thus far will become the most difficult and stressful day of being a Blazer. The last bit of Blazer spirit I have will be diminished when I have to spend almost 8 hours tending to graduation activities with thousands of others rather than the divided colleges before. If this takes place outside the possibility of rain in the month of May amidst the wet season of South Georgia is very likely and if all the colleges walk together there will now be limited seating inside the PE Complex unlike before. Something that makes Valdosta State University so great is that it is unique and fosters that in more ways than one, including our commencement ceremony.

On behalf of other students similar to me, I, like many others, have divorced parents both traveling from over 4 hours away, If the convocation and actual graduation are divided, I will have to "divide" my time between my two beloved parents. One of my parents will have to be alone while I tend to another and not to mention they will now have to book two nights for a hotel rather than one. Also, my 88 year old frail grandma will have to miss one of the events related to graduation because she cannot sit for so long, like many other elderly people.

I would also like to bring to your attention if fireworks are involved in the ceremony there is increased liability to VSU and it's attendees of the event. People who are affected by PTSD and other similar ailments will have to leave the ceremony. Also, firework debris will come down on the people attending and the burning embers from fireworks could lead to possibly injury and damage to property. Embers from fireworks cause thousands of roof leaks a year by burning the rubber of flat roofs. So, keep this in mind as well.

This is the day we have worked hardest for in our lives and the changes being made is tarnishing the bright image of Valdosta State University.

Thank you for your time,

Name Removed
Disappointed student

Date: _____

Faculty Senate Attendance: Please initial to the right of your name. If you are a proxy for someone, write **proxy** to the right of their name.

College of the Arts	Initials
Abigail Heuss	Proxy
Karl Wildman	X
Karl Paoletti	X
Sarah Arnett	X
Kalina Winska	Proxy
Shannon Lowe	X
Tommy Crane	X
Linda Jurczak	X

College of Arts and Sciences	Initials
Ligia Focsan	X
Marty Williams	Proxy
Fred Knowles	
Krishnendu Roy	X
Dereth Drake	X
John Crowley	X
Ubaraj Katawal	X
Brian Ring	X
Rebecca Gaskins	X
Michael Noll	X
Peggy Moch	X
Michael Meacham	
Fleming Bell	X
Kelly Davidson Devall	Proxy
Karen Acosta	X
Donald Thieme	X
Arsalan Wares	X
Michelle Ann Ocasio	X
Victoria Russell	Proxy
Maren Clegg-Hyer	X
Jacob M. Jewusiak	X
Theresa J. Grove	X
Sudip Chakraborty	X
VACANT	
Grazyna H. Walczak	Proxy
Marc G. Pufong	X

College of Business Administration	Initials
Luis Gonzalez	Proxy
Eric Howington	X
David Kuhlmeier	X
S. Andrew "Andy" Ostapski	
Gary Futrell	Proxy

Executive Committee	Initials
Sean Lennon	X

College of Education & Human Services	Initials
Sonya Sanderson	
Shaunita Strozier	X
Regina Suriel	X
Nancy Sartin	X
David Bruno	
Debbie Paine	X
Han Chen	
Patti Campbell	Proxy
Katherine Lamb	X
Alicja Rieger	X
Lucia Lu	X
Katharine Adams	X
Rudo Tsemunhu	Proxy
Diane Wright	Proxy

College of Nursing & Health Sciences	Initials
Michelle Ritter	X
Serina McEntire	Proxy
Stacey Walters	X
Maura Schlairet	Proxy

Odum Library	Initials
Catherine Bowers	X
Mike Holt	X
Colette Drouillard	

Retirees Association Representative	Initials
Fred Ware	X

Council on Staff Affairs (non-voting):	Initials
Keith Warburg, COSA Chair	

Student Senators (non-voting)	Initials
David L. Burdette, SGA President	

Visitors:	Initials
Sheri Gravett	X
Angela Uyeno	X