



FACULTY SENATE
Est. 1991

Peggy Moch
President

Mike Holt
Vice President/
President Elect

Sudip Chakraborty
Secretary

Sean Lennon
Parliamentarian

Michael Noll
Past President

Minutes
November 19, 2015, 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

2. **Approval of the minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**

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

Dr. Sonya Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes with Dr. David Kuhlmeier's second. There was no discussion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

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: Tommy Crane for Shannon Lowe, Arsalan Wares for Krishnendu Roy, Michael Noll for Dereth Drake, Michelle Ocasio for Kelly Devall, Rebecca Gaskin for Maren Clegg-Hyer, Luis Gonzalez for S. Andrew Ostapski, Debbie Paine for Regina Suriel, Alicja Rieger for Patti Campbell, Nancy Sartin for Lucia Lu, Eric Howington for Katharine Adams, Shaunita Strozier for Rudo Tsemunhu, and Serina McEntire for Stacey Walters.

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 presented the update on marketing, enrollment, and retention efforts. The number of applications went up 105% from the same date last year. He mentioned appointment of new chair or co-chair in near future for 70-80 initiative and announced an expected anonymous gift of \$300,000 would help in setting a need-based money pool for students who need them. He also mentioned about setting a "Blazer opportunity grant" that would help students owing less than \$100 to continue at VSU. The Capital

Campaign reached 86% of its target (\$45.68M out of \$53M is either pledged or in-hand). He thought VSU's endowment should be \$100M instead of \$50M.

Answering how faculty can be helpful in enrollment and retention, Dr. Staton mentioned faculty play an important role in these goals. He encouraged everybody to be positive, to walk away from rumors, and be encouraging to students. He thanked all for their efforts. He expressed his willingness to support the idea of faculty group or team that can promote positive things about departments/programs and encouragement.

Related to closing of programs, Dr. Staton stated the USG keeps a list of programs not performing well and VSU gets updated regularly about these. However, we should know about such problems long before the USG knows and stated that at this point there is no plan to close any program.

President Staton mentioned about legal issues involved in faculty retirement and replacement of positions. He acknowledged that it is a valid and important question that has no simple answer. Decisions would be made following strategic flexibility to meet the needs of the students and number of credit hour production.

Question from senator to Dr. Staton was whether the administration considers inherent faculty strength in terms of expertise or specific department needs like accreditation. President Staton mentioned that administration considers these aspects.

Another questions from a senator was about the potential merger of VSU with a smaller 2/4 year college. President Staton answered as of now there was no such plan but we do not know about the future. So far the BOR has announced a merger of Albany State University with Darton State College.

5. Police Chief Ron Seacrist: Emergency management update from October remanded issue (See Attachments A and C)

Police Chief Ron Seacrist answered both issues (as in attachment A and C). The issue with campus notification system could be due to not opting in properly. He urged that new faculty/staff should be provided information to opt-in for the notification system and annual update of records by HR.

Regarding emergency situation in classroom, Chief Seacrist mentioned about ongoing exploration of different processes like placing a "panic icon" on each classroom desktop that would alarm the campus police. He informed us that the National Safety Initiative was developing a survey to identify best practices in universities and the results would be shared with Campus Safety Committee. Chief Seacrist announced an initiative that would designate a trained person, for each building on campus, to be "building security manager" who would update security issues about the building. He mentioned that all officers have "active shooter training" and a crime prevention lieutenant was developing a program and guidance (videos) to train faculty and staff.

One of the senators enquired about the procedure to handle a threatening email received by a faculty/staff member. Chief Seacrist answered that if it is received off campus then it should be forwarded to appropriate law enforcement office (city/county). Another senator enquired whether to put "armed gunman guideline" on syllabi and Chief replied that it would be at the discretion of individual faculty members.

Faculty senate president, Dr. Moch, requested everybody to close/lock classroom doors in their buildings, especially in evening or night to deter potential theft of costly equipment.

6. Vice President for University Advancement, Mr. John Crawford: Update on Capital Campaign and VSU giving

No separate update was provided as President Staton addressed this issue.

7. Old & Unfinished Business

- a. Statutory Committee Reports

- i. **Academic Committee – Sheri Gravett; Report located at**

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

November minutes were approved without any discussion and with 1 abstention.

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

Ms. Winska presented the update. A list of vacancies was prepared and representatives of units sent the lists to academic deans with a request to hold elections before January 14, 2016.

- iii. Faculty Affairs – Alicja Rieger: Progress on assignments?
No report.
 - iv. Faculty Grievance Committee – John Dunn: Any report?
No report.
 - v. Institutional Planning Committee – Donald Thieme: Any report?
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 with representation from the Provost’s Office, Faculty Senate, and the Council on Staff Affairs.
8. New Business
- a. Standing Committee Reports: No reports received
 - i. Academic Scheduling & Procedures – Katharine Lamb
 - ii. Academic Honors & Scholarships – Michael Meacham
 - iii. Environmental Issues – Arsalan Wares
 - iv. Faculty Scholarship – Maura Schlairet
 - v. Library Affairs – Michael Forbes Ocasio
 - vi. Internationalization and Globalization Committee – Fleming Bell
 - vii. Diversity and Equity – Karen Acosta
 - viii. Student Affairs – Kelly Davidson Devall
 - ix. Technology – Mike Holt
 - b. Standing Committee Report
 - i. Educational Policies – Jacob M. Jewusiak: SOI Redesign Draft Document please download at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/agenda.php>
Dr. Jewusiak presented the report about new design of SOI questionnaire. It will contain 2-3 quantitative questions and 1 qualitative question. Instructors/Departments will have the flexibility to add other questions for internal evaluation and the result of these customized questions are not supposed to be used for promotion and tenure.
 - ii. **Athletic – Peggy L Moch: Student Athlete of the Semester Recognition Program (Attachment B)**
A motion to approve the suggestion (as in attachment B) was carried with no discussion and 1 abstention.
Faculty Senate President Dr. Peggy Moch left the meeting due to health reasons and Mr. Michael Holt (Faculty Senate President-elect) presided over the remainder of the meeting.
 - c. Changes requested for increased campus security (Attachment C): Remanded to Chief Seacrist
 - d. Academic calendar summer 2016 issues (Attachment D): Remanded to Academic Scheduling and Procedures Committee
9. General Discussion

Dr. Theresa Grove mentioned about receiving an email from Dr. Andrew Ostapski. She expressed concerns about the email that apparently indicated an instruction from Dr. Ostapski's supervisor not to be part of a committee formalizing a resolution of support for faculty receiving non-renewal letters. Faculty Senators from the College of Business confirmed that, as per their knowledge, nothing like that was instructed and it could be a case of misunderstanding. Dr. Grove was requested to send a copy of the email to the Vice-President, Mr. Holt.

It was also discussed whether a 4 week timeline to add time-critical matter to faculty senate meetings was reasonable. A motion to investigate possible change in the 4-week timeline in faculty senate bylaws was carried unanimously without any discussion.

Continuing discussion on the draft of a resolution and the special committee in charge of it, Ms. Winska mentioned that the committee could not function properly due to several resignations from the committee and lack of representation from all units. Some senators raised concerns about the role of the committee and expressed that the objective was never clear. Some other senators objected to that concern and emphasized that the objective of the committee was clear. At this point it was discussed whether to disband the committee, however, a vote could not be taken due to loss of a quorum. Tense discussion continued and strong disagreement was observed. At the end it was identified that much time has elapsed without meaningful action to form a resolution.

10. Adjournment

Dr. Kuhlmeier made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Sonya Sanderson. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Sudip Chakraborty

Attachment A:

Hi Peggy,

Sorry to bug you again, but I have some concern about our campus notification system. There are many faculty members in my area who do not get campus notifications (particularly about crime) and they are signed up for it.

Recently a news story on WCTV about two suspects interviewed two students who had not gotten notifications. <http://www.wctv.tv/home/headlines/Two-Suspects-Remain-On-The-Loose-In-Valdosta-326104981.html>

Can we as faculty senate ask the VSU Chief of Police to do look into improving this? Can we as the Fac Sen do something to help make this a better notification system?

Stacey D. Walters



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Student Athlete of the Semester Recognition Program

In an effort to encourage faculty to recognize Valdosta State University athletes who have displayed meritorious academic performance, the Athletic Committee proposes the establishment of a Student Athlete of the Semester Recognition Program. The program would operate under the following rules:

- When possible, there will be a male and a female Blazer Scholar-Athlete for each semester.
- The program would cover Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. Nominations should be submitted by the mid-point of the each semester or at the solicitation of Valdosta State Athletics.
- Recipients may come from any program sponsored and/or sanctioned by Valdosta State University Athletics. Students participating in club and intramural programs would not be eligible for participation in this program.
- Recipients must be currently eligible for athletic participation per NCAA, GSC, and institutional requirements.
- Recipients must be in good academic standing at the time of nomination. Student-Athletes must have a minimum GPA of 2.75. However, under circumstances to be determined by the nominating faculty, Valdosta State Athletics, and/or the Athletic Committee, student-athletes who may not meet the minimum GPA requirements may be nominated.
- Recipients must not have been found guilty of major violations of law, ethics, or institutional conduct standards.
- Nominees who have been selected as Student-Athlete of the Semester are not eligible for re-nomination for one academic year after selection.

Any academic faculty member may nominate an athlete currently enrolled in his/her courses to be a Blazer Scholar-Athlete of the Semester. Faculty may nominate eligible student athletes through the form to be provided on the VSU Athletics Website. (NOTE: The form will be created and posted subsequent to all approvals being obtained).

In order to be selected as Blazer Scholar-Athlete of the Semester, the successful candidate must demonstrate at least one of the following characteristics:

- Successfully demonstrate strong academic skills.
- Demonstrate and evidence a positive measured outcome that they have achieved through coursework. This criterion may include evidence of significant improvement as well as initial outstanding performance.
- Demonstrate leadership dispositions within an academic context.

(The criteria *supra* were modified from the Jonathan and Judy Hoff Scholar Athlete of the Week awards, University of California at Berkeley. The site may be accessed at <https://asc.berkeley.edu/achievement/saw/>).

In the event of multiple nominations for a given semester, the Athletic Committee (which includes the Faculty Athletics Representative and Athletic Director) will make the selection.

Athletes who are recognized as Blazer Scholar Athletes of the Semester could receive:

- Letters of recognition from the Athletic Director, Faculty Athletic Director, and appropriate VSU administration.
- Recognition on the electronic sign located outside of the Complex on Baytree Road.

- Recognition on the VSU Athletics website.
- Recognition at the Athletic Banquet at the end of the year.
- Recognition in campus and local media outlets.

It should be noted here that the aforementioned means of recognizing recipients can be achieved at minimal to no cost, since the resources to recognize recipients already exists.

If adopted, the Blazer Scholar-Athlete of the Semester Awards can be an effective and efficient way to recognize the academic prowess of our athletes while sending a signal to the VSU and larger communities that VSU Athletics does take the academic success of its athletes seriously. Finally, if this program is successful, it can serve as a launching point for other programs that honor the “Scholar” in the term VSU Scholar-Athletes.

Attachment C:

To: Peggy Moch, President of Faculty Senate
From: Donna Sewell, Professor of English
Topic: Campus Security
Date: Oct. 9, 2015

I am writing to request the Faculty Senate to investigate two issues related to campus security: 1) classroom doors that lock, and 2) active shooter information/training.

Rationale and Purpose: Shootings on college campuses continue to rise. While *Time* is not the most reputable source, it does contain an article that lists every shooting in 2015 (<http://time.com/4058669/oregon-shooting-school-shootings-2015/>), including some unknown to me.

VSU has created this guide (<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/police/documents/emergency-quick-reference-guide-2-14-13.pdf>), so it's clear that VSU's Behavioral Intervention Team (<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/police/b.i.t.-behavioral-intervention-team.php>) is hard at work. In fact, that same team (particularly Dr. Sheri Gravett, Major Ann Farmer, and a counselor from our Counseling Center) helped me tremendously when I received an inappropriate email from a former student. However, until I went looking for information, I didn't know it existed. I wonder how many faculty, staff, and students know about this existence of this guide.

One of the first recommendations in the guide is to look doors if possible. It is NOT possible to lock my classroom door (West Hall 254) or the classrooms of many colleagues. Once doors with swipe locks (aside from computer classrooms) are unlocked in the morning, they stay unlocked all day. Faculty members and students cannot change that lock should something happen. Apparently, the administration can lock down the classrooms from a central location, but that may happen too late in an emergency. We need doors that stay locked, or we need deadbolts installed on all classroom doors.

The Board of Regents has produced an active shooter video that is currently on VSU's webpage (<http://www.valdosta.edu/student/emergency/test.php>). VSU needs to sponsor frank discussions about what to do in an emergency. We probably need to have these conversations with our students in classrooms, but I don't want to start those conversations if I can't even lock the classroom door.

Attachment D:

Academic Calendar Summer 2016 Issues

Hi Peggy,

I would like to bring it to your attention an issue that relates to Summer 2016.

I looked at the Academic Calendar for 2015-16. Summer I, Summer III and Summer IV (meeting 5 days, Mon-Fri) each has 15 class meetings. To get 2250 minutes of teaching time (for a 3 credit hour class) during the semester, classes need to meet for 150 minutes each day + any breaks that the Registrar's office decides. Summer II 2016 (meeting four times a week, Mon-Thu) has 25 class meetings.

To get 2250 minutes of teaching time during the semester, classes need to meet for 90 minutes (not 85 minutes as was suggested by Patrick in the Registrar's office) each day. So the meeting times for Summer II should be

8:00 - 9:30

9:40-11:10

11:20-12:50

1:00-2:30

2:40-4:10

4:20-5:50

There is another issue that affects colleges that offer MW or TR classes in Summer II. There are only 12 meeting days for MW classes and 13 meeting days for TR classes. The Registrar's office is suggesting meeting times based on 14 teaching days for each of those formats. I did send e-mails to both Patrick and Stanley in the Registrar' office. I heard back from Patrick and he suggested that this is an issue that needs to be taken up by the Academic Scheduling Committee since that committee created the academic calendars for the years 2015-2019. I request that we address this issue now so that we don't have to change things at the last minute. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Ashok Kumar, Professor
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