



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY SENATE

est. 1991

Chairman	Vice Chairman	Executive Secretary	Parliamentarian
President H. C. Bailey	Vice President L. Benjamin	Dr. D. Boyd	Dr. R. Hull

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### Minutes of April 20, 2000

The Valdosta State University Faculty Senate meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. in Powell Hall Auditorium. Members present were: President & Chair - H.C. Bailey; Vice President, Academic Affairs -, L. Benjamin; Executive Secretary – D. Boyd; Parliamentarian – R. Hull; Ex-officio Senators – J. Brignati, Russ Mast, R. Devery (absent), L. Milbrandt (proxy J. Wheeler), T. Dasher, K. Stanley (absent), F. Toth (absent), M.A. Reichenbach (absent), E. Clark (absent), C. McKay (absent), N. Argyle (absent), G. Gaumond (absent), P. Cleveland (absent) ; College of the Arts: C. Coons (proxy V. Pennington), P. McNeill, V. Pennington, D. Farwell (proxy T. Harding), J. Wheeler, T. Harding; College of Arts & Sciences: D. Bogyo, L. Hanes, A. Lazari (absent), D. Sewell, M. Smith, C. Walker, B. Bergstrom, B. Brown (absent), J. Elza, B. Evans, T. Meyers, V. Soady, B. Adler (absent), S. Goel, H. Harper (absent), J. Hiers (proxy L. Hanes), S. Seyfarth (proxy D. Sewell), J. Wilkinson; College of Business Administration: B. Caster (absent), F. Ware, M. Holland, A. Reddy (absent); College of Education: R. McClung, M. Garber (absent), J. Hummel, L. Wiley (absent), P. Anderson (proxy R. Hull), S. Andrews (absent), F. Smith, T. Root (absent), C. Backes, B. Gerber, A. Gibbs, A. Brovey (proxy B. Gerber), K. Wells, M. Venn; College of Nursing: D. Ebron (proxy D. Roush), D. Roush; Division of Social Work: R. Vodde; Odum Library: S. Thomas; SGA President: J. Golden (absent).

1. H. Bailey called the meeting to order. He recognized Dr. L. Benjamin for five years of service to VSU and thanked him for his work with the Senate. Dr. Benjamin will assume the position of President at Indiana State University.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the March 16, 2000 meeting** – H. Bailey asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. **The minutes were approved as presented.**
5. General Discussion - H. Bailey requested permission from the Executive Secretary and Senate to move into General Discussion regarding the tree issue. With no objection, Dr. Bailey opened the discussion. He stated that the original construction plans for the new Biology/Chemistry building included plans to have a number of trees cut down. The construction plans were later amended so that the trees would not be cut down. Dr. Bailey was unaware of this amendment. He stated that he and Mr. Brignati were inspecting the construction site with the construction officials prior to Spring Break. The construction officials asked for permission to cut down the trees. Mr. Brignati and Dr. Bailey agreed that the trees could be cut down, as the original contract specified. Dr. Bailey apologized for the mistake due to miscommunication and stated that, in the future, no tree on the VSU campus will be cut down without his permission. Before he grants permission, he will consult with Dr. B. Bergstrom and the Beautification Subcommittee. Dr. Bailey recognized B. Bergstrom for clarification on this issue. Using overheads of the construction site and a handout of VSU's current tree policy, B. Bergstrom addressed the tree problem. He stated that the trees that were removed were

not all originally specified to be removed in the construction plan. The existing contract site map called "Plan A-12," drafted in September 1997, clearly indicated that all 12 – 13 of the large pines plus several magnolias and dogwoods that were cut down during Spring Break were designated as "To Remain" and that they obviously had been preserved during the two previous years of building construction. Plan A-12 is an active site plan that is supposed to be guiding the contractors' work, as the IPG architects had confirmed that it had not been amended. It was drawn by the IPG architects following the meeting on May 29, 1997 between the Campus Beautification subcommittee, Mr. Brignati, Mr. Bell, and the architect, Mr. Dan Parris. This meeting was arranged with the permission of Dr. Bailey, and a summary letter of the agreements reached, detailing each tree to be preserved by the redesign of sidewalks and drives, was sent immediately to all meeting participants as well as Dr. Bailey. B. Bergstrom stated that for two years, the committee has viewed this example of how the process can work, of "good faith" negotiation and the resulting positive results, as a source of pride and accomplishment for the betterment of the campus. He added that after almost three years, that agreement has been betrayed and the institution's own policy has once again been violated. A problem in the decision-making process is that the site is owned by the Georgia State Finance & Investment Commission, not VSU. The State officials have indicated that their ownership of the construction site in no way inhibits VSU officials from making decisions regarding the construction plans and procedures. He stated that he examined the property in an attempt to find out how many trees were cut but could not get an exact number. He asked construction officials about the number of trees that were cut but could not get an accurate number. B. Bergstrom also stated that Robert Tindell, a plant operations official, indicated approximately one year ago that the Beautification Subcommittee needed to meet with the contractors about cutting down several trees. The contractors were ready to put the cooling tower in and felt that they needed to cut down several trees. At the February 1999 meeting, the contractors proposed cutting down ten trees. The committee proposed an alternative way to construct the tower that would only require the removal of five trees. The contractors agreed. The contractors indicated that there would not be any need to remove more trees during the construction process and that, should such need arise, they would consult with the committee before proceeding. B. Bergstrom stated that the removal of trees in the grove next to the entrance to the building eliminated significant protection from sun, wind, and other factors and that replacing those trees with something comparable to them should be examined. He added that specifications in the contract intended to protect the trees on the site are not being adhered to and should be enforced. H. Bailey apologized for the confusion and stated that before any other trees are removed from VSU's campus, he will have to give specific permission, and that he will not do so without consulting with the Beautification Subcommittee. Leigh Touchton asked H. Bailey about his statement indicating that, for every tree that is removed from the VSU campus, four are planted in its place. She stated that a significant difference exists between a newly planed tree and a 200-year old longleaf pine. H. Bailey agreed with her and stated that he did not intend for his statement to indicate that the two are equal.

R. Hull stated that the allotted time for discussion of agenda items had expired.

3. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.
4. New Business
  - a. Report from the Academic Committee – L. Benjamin referred to the action items as presented with the agenda and asked for the Senate's concurrence. **The minutes were approved.**
  - b. Report from the Committee on Committees – M. Holland stated that the Committee on Committees had generated the committee preference forms and Faculty Grievance ballots and encouraged the Senate to return them as soon as possible.
  - c. Report from the Institutional Planning Committee – C. Backes stated that the IPC met on April 19, 2000 and was briefed on the status of the VSU Strategic Plan and on the progress of the

Program Review Task Force. The majority of the meeting was concerned with the review of the budgeting process. The review was conducted due to a directive in the Follow-up Plan for Recommendations and Suggestions presented to SACS. Dr. Bailey, Dr. Benjamin, and Mr. Brignati each presented information relative to the budgeting process at VSU. The next step in the process will be the surveying of IPC members, Deans, and Cabinet members to further evaluate the process. Results of the survey will be shared with the President, Cabinet members, Deans, and members of the IPC in order to formulate recommendations for future budgeting processes. The next meeting of the IPC is scheduled for June 21, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the Odum Library.

- d. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee – B. Gerber stated the Faculty Affairs Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2000 to continue discussion of a request to reconsider the policy regarding Administrative Evaluations, and to whom the results are reported. A review of past Faculty Senate minutes indicated that during the 1996-97 academic year, the Senate approved a Policy on Evaluation of Administrators. The Committee discussed the challenge for VSU to follow current policy and recognized that this policy consists of reasonable timeliness and requirements. The Committee recommended adhering to the existing Policy on Evaluation of Administrators until such data can be obtained to indicate that modifications are warranted.
- e. Report from the Faculty Grievance Committee – J. Elza stated that the committee decided that a vice chair is needed with access to the safe deposit box in the case of an emergency. They decided to destroy the material in the safe deposit box that is more than seven years old. The committee has not decided on the best way to go about doing this.
- f. Report from the Senate Executive Secretary
  1. **Proposed policy on GPA requirements for being placed on the Dean's List** – D. Boyd stated that the report from the Academic Honors and Scholarships Committee was included with the agenda as Attachment #2. J. Hummel presented a motion to accept the report as presented. F. Smith seconded the motion. T. Harding asked if the policy will go into effect in the Fall Semester, 2000. D. Boyd stated that that effective date was agreeable. C. Backes voiced concerned regarding the requirement of maintaining a course load of 12 hours per semester with a GPA of 3.5. Because a number of VSU's students are non-traditional, maintaining a course load of six or nine hours per semester, they are being eliminated from qualifying for the Dean's List according to the requirements presented by the committee. J. Hummel stated that there is a difference in maintaining a course load of six or nine hours and maintaining a load of 12 or more hours. S. Goel stated, on behalf of the committee, that they examined the policies of other institutions and agreed that this policy would be parallel to what other members of the University System require. C. Backes reiterated that by voting to approve the policy as presented, the large population of non-traditional students would be eliminated from qualification. V. Soady stated that allowing part-time students to achieve Dean's List recognition is one of the many equity issues that universities are facing. She suggested that because part-time students deserve to be considered for recognition, there should be two separate lists. Dean's List qualification could be based on three terms, or 24 semester hours, completed within an academic year. C. Backes stated that the nine semester hour requirement per semester would be the ideal way to keep from eliminating a large population of non-traditional students. D. Boyd recognized Judy Griffin, Faculty Senate Secretary, for input on the issue. She agreed with C. Backes, as a non-traditional student, that the 12 semester hour requirement per semester would eliminate a large segment of VSU's student population. Because VSU is a regional institution that serves students through various off-campus and distance learning programs, she encouraged the Senate to consider a nine semester hour requirement for Dean's List consideration. **The nine hour semester requirement was approved. The policy on the GPA requirement was approved as amended.**

2. Reports from Senate standing committees:

- a. Faculty Development and Research – The report is included herein as attachment #1.
- b. Library Affairs – The report is included herein as attachment #2.
- c. Minority and Diversity Issues – The report is included herein as attachment #3.
- d. Student Activities – The report is included herein as attachment #4
- e. Student Services – H. Harper was not present to give the report.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.