



FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Chairman
Ronald M. Zaccari

Vice Chairman
Louis Levy

Executive Secretary
Mike Meacham

Parliamentarian
John Samaras

Minutes of October 21, 2004

[{Members and visitors present}](#)

The Valdosta State University Faculty Senate meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. in the Magnolia Room, University Center.

R. Zaccari began the meeting by squelching rumors regarding the College of Arts and Sciences. There are no changes planned for the College of Arts and Sciences.

R. Zaccari provided an update on the budget. The Governor originally asked for \$68.7 million from the University System of Georgia. That amount has now been reduced to \$64 million. The Chancellor and Board of Regents voted to take \$28 million from insurance reserves of USG and give to the Governor. After the \$28 million reduction, the 34 USG institutions will be required to cut \$20.3 million rather than the original \$68.7 million. VSU's contribution is now somewhere between \$650,000 and \$700,000. A portion of this will come from administrative positions that have been vacated. He also noted that due to the budget planning process that VSU has in place the Spring 2005 part-time positions that were originally frozen will now be given back to the Colleges. No lay-offs are planned for the University at this time. The position of Dean of the Graduate School will be dissolved and the graduate programs will be absorbed under the various Dean's offices. He informed the Senate that he alerted the Chancellor of VSU's decision to discontinue the musical theatre at Jekyll Island. The musical theatre will be brought to Valdosta. VSU will also expand the arts summer festivals to bring economic development to the city of Valdosta and the University. Other examples of saving money which are now being implemented at VSU include a change in the electrical rate of the campus and the use of the Georgia fuel card program.

R. Zaccari stated that campus construction continues to move forward. We must renovate and restructure the campus. Involvement from the Faculty Senate Environmental Issues Committee will be a welcome part of this process.

R. Zaccari thanked everyone for their continued support of Valdosta State University.

R. Zaccari turned the meeting over to M. Meacham.

M. Meacham read the list of proxies.

2. Approval of the [minutes of the September 23, 2004](#) meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The minutes were approved.

3. New business

a. Discussion on sexual orientation bill – Dr. Zaccari

R. Zaccari stated that before the recess of Faculty Senate last spring there was a recommendation to include *sexual orientation* in the non-discriminatory clause of VSU's Equal Opportunity Statement. Upon consideration of endorsing this proposal R. Zaccari met with J. LaPlant, who chaired the Minority and Diversity Issues Committee from 2003-2004. J. LaPlant presented R. Zaccari with a thorough document detailing the pertinent points that brought about this recommendation. Quotes from the document are listed below:

- “Several faculty argued that concerns about future litigation actually serve as an argument for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the EOS.”
- “The Faculty Senate debate clearly stipulated that inclusion of sexual orientation in the EOS should not be interpreted as providing domestic partner benefits.”
- “The committee and floor deliberations reveal that the basis for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Equal Opportunity Statement is an awareness of discrimination against students and faculty based upon sexual orientation. Our hope is that the inclusion of sexual orientation in VSU's Equal Opportunity Statement would prevent future discrimination. This proposed policy change would apply to fundamental issues such as hiring, firing, promotion and tenure.”

R. Zaccari stated the document provided by J. LaPlant, along with minutes of the March 19, 2004 Minority and Diversity Issues Committee meeting, clearly make a difference in defending the University if there would be forthcoming litigation.

R. Zaccari received a statement from the Student Government Association endorsing the Equal Opportunity Statement. A portion of their endorsement states, “Upon examining and discussing the request, the majority of the senate voted in favor of passing a resolution.”

R. Zaccari received a statement from the Council on Staff Affairs informing him that they did not endorse the Equal Opportunity Statement. A portion of their letter states, “Our decision not to produce an endorsement came in part by not being able to determine a definition, through legal precedence, of how the term “Sexual Orientation” could be explained or interpreted. We felt the vagueness of this term, without the support of proven Federal or State legal precedence would expose the University to unnecessary liability without recourse to seek relief.”

Upon receiving information from the above mentioned governing bodies of the University, R. Zaccari stated that it was his intention to approve the resolution and include the term *sexual orientation* in the University's Equal Opportunity Statement.

b. Report from the Academic Committee

No report.

c. Report from the Committee on Committee – Lyle Indergaard ([Attachment #1](#))

- d. Report from the Institutional Planning Committee – Michael Noll ([Attachment #2](#))
- e. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee – Cecelia Barnbaum – No report.
- f. Report from the Faculty Grievance Committee – Mike Savoie – No report.
- g. Report from the Senate Executive Secretary – Mike Meacham – No report.

4. Old Business

(Item #05-001- Report from Academic Scheduling Committee on bill to change final examination schedule) M. Williams alerted everyone to a survey that C. Hudson has set up on Banner. Feedback and comments from the survey will be used to assist with the discussions and decisions in the Committee.

5. General Discussion

- E. Pugh expressed concern over the withdrawal policy at VSU. She was wondering if this policy could be eliminated. W. Peacock indicated this policy came about in order to have a punitive withdrawal that is reflected in the grade point average. C. Hudson clarified that there are two withdrawal options – 1) withdrawn-never attended or 2) withdrawn-stopped attending. He also asked that everyone keep in mind for future semesters that this policy has a real implication for financial aid.
- C. Hudson informed the Faculty Senate that a new ID number will be issued to each individual on campus. This new ID number will be used in place of an individual's social security number. In September, 2002 the Chancellor wrote a letter to all University Presidents and addressed the issue of using social security numbers as the primary identification for students and employees and asked that this process be changed. Committees were formed to address this issue. In March, 2003 the Chancellor wrote and said some issues were raised and asked that the process be placed on hold. In September, 2004 Chancellor Meredith sent a directive to begin the process of changing the identification numbers. A large committee has been formed at VSU, as well as a steering committee that is in the process of writing a plan. Upon its completion, the plan will go through several levels of approval prior to being forwarded to the Board of Regents. A number will be generated through Banner that will be unique to VSU. Social security numbers will be maintained on campus for tax purposes as well as financial aid. The number of offices that will have access to social security numbers will be limited. A tentative time-frame for implementation of the new system is Spring semester, 2005. Any comments or concerns regarding this issue may be directed to idchange@valdosta.edu.
- M. Stoltzfus asked C. Hudson about withdrawing students after proof rolls have been submitted without using an add/drop form. C. Hudson indicated M. Stoltzfus could call the Registrar's office and justify the withdrawal.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Attachment #1

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
October 21, 2004

1. The Fall 2004 Grievance Committee ballot has been prepared and will be sent out in a few days. Two faculty will be elected to finish the terms of Brian Adler and Dick Saeger.
2. The Committee on Committees continues to correct and update the Senate committee rosters.

Report to Faculty Senate
Institutional Planning Committee
October 20, 2004

Present: Linda Bennett Elder, Joan Futch, Jeff Grant, Michael Holland, Chuck Hudson, Marsha Krotseng, Blake Pearce, Karen Shepard, and Fred Ware.

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 P.M.

The IPC met for the second time in the academic year 2004-2005. Michael Noll reported on the Executive Committee Meeting from October 7, and Marsha Krotseng reported on the UPAC meeting from October 13.

As its first point of discussion, the committee explored the formation of a new task force which, under the leadership of the IPC, will replace the task force that was responsible for the creation of the Concise Mission Statement. The charge of this new task force will be to find ways to improve the communication (and marketing) of VSU's Strategic Planning Process/Progress, including the dissemination of the Concise Mission Statement, the creation of a web-based, interactive Master Plan, and any other initiatives that will ultimately help to outline both our challenges and successes, and to bring the VSU community together. Ideally this task force should be made up of representatives from COSA, SGA, the administration, and the faculty, plus the Chair of the IPC. The committee herewith would like to ask for help in identifying any individuals who are willing to serve on this task force, and to submit their names to the IPC.

As a second point of discussion, inspired by the IPC's desire to become more involved in initiating ideas in the light of VSU's current budget crisis, was the question of the 2005 Summer School. In the face of the 15% budget cut for summer teaching, the IPC discussed a number of proposals to optimize the Summer School program. The ideas currently being discussed range from using BANNER to generate waiting lists (which could identify the true demand for certain courses) to the identification of students on BANNER who have successfully applied for graduation and therefore need special attention. The underlying rationale of this discussion was to create the best "menu" of courses possible for Summer Schools within current (or future) budget constraints, to meet demand with supply, and to attract enrollment in the summer, rather than to discourage it. In the light of these discussions, the IPC welcomes any input from members of the VSU community that might help us in the identification of the best design for future summer school programs, which will meet both the demands of our students as well as the faculty.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael G. Noll, Chair.

Members and Visitors present:

R.M. Zaccari, President
L. Levy, Vice President, Academic Affairs (absent)
M. Meacham, Executive Secretary
J. Samaras, Parliamentarian

*Indicates the individual assigned a proxy

Ex-Officio Senators:

J. Black	K. Keppler
S. Sikes	J. Gaston
L. Calendrillo	P. Gunter
K. Stanley	A. Hufft (absent)
B. Adler	G. Gaumond (absent)
*N. Argyle	*M. Giddings

College of the Arts:

*M. Schmidt	L. Indergaard
J. Bowland	M. Eaves
M. Savoie	E. Nielsen
F. Barnas (absent)	*J. Brashier

College Of Arts and Sciences:

D. Boyd	J. LaPlant	M. Stoltzfus	*C. Johnson
C. Meyers	C. Whiting	J. Samaras	C. Barnbaum
W. Huang	C. James	G. Macheski	M. Noll
E. Pugh	*J. Whitehead	M. Williams	R. Carter
A. Lazari (absent)	A. Aronson-Friedman	B. Bergstrom	*M. Davey
C. Tillman	J. Wang		

College Of Business Administration:

*F. Ware	A. Reddy	L. Marshall	*C. Tori
*B. Caster			

College of Education:

*S. Andrews	D. Briihl	B. Johnston	K. McCurdy
S. Worth	I. Ellis	C. Hudson	K. Hinkle
L. Minor	L. Schmertzng (absent)	J. Stelzer	M. Fenster
J. Hummel	*D. Leech	*K. Ott	R. Schmertzng (absent)

College Of Nursing

L. Floyd	L. Bell
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Division Of Social Work:

M. Meacham

Odum Library:

M. Puffer-Rothenberg	E. Yontz
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Proxies:

Lynn Minor for Shirley Andrews
Brian Adler for Nolan Argyle
Lyle Indergaard for Joe Brashier
Leisa Marshall for Bruce Caster
David Boyd for Marty Giddings
Iris Ellis for Kenny Ott
Marty Williams for Michael Schmidt

Allan Reddy for Cindy Tori
Wilson Huang for Fred Ware
Eneida Pugh for Jane Whitehead
Kerry Hinkle for Donald Leech
Chris Meyers for Charles Johnson
Amy Aronson-Friedman for Mike Davey

Student Government Association (non-voting)
President of the SGA: Jason Lewis (absent)

Visitors:

Bobby Flowers, Council on Staff Affairs
Karen Shepard, Registrar's Office
Chuck Hudson, Registrar
Shannon McGee, Auxiliary Services
Marsha Krotseng, Office of Planning
Walter Peacock, Admissions