



## **FACULTY SENATE Est. 1991**

**Chairperson**  
Ronald M. Zaccari

**Vice Chairperson**  
Louis Levy

**Executive Secretary**  
Christine James

**Parliamentarian**  
Richard Haptonstall

### **Minutes of October 18, 2007**

**The Valdosta State University Faculty Senate meeting convened at 3:35 p.m. in the Magnolia Room, University Center.**

1. Dr. Ronald Zaccari called the meeting to order and presented the following items:
  - Updated the Senate on the VSU Master Plan. Construction of two parking decks should begin in December 15, 2007 or soon after. There will be some disruption with parking across campus and the University is developing a plan that will be presented at a later date.
  - Announced that construction of the new Student Health Center should also begin around December 15, 2007. The Parking and Transportation office has moved to the One Card office until the parking deck is completed. This will allow for the demolition of the building that previously housed the Parking and Transportation office on Georgia Avenue. All parking spaces lost during the construction of the Student Health Center will be reestablished in the new parking section in that area once the Parking and Transportation office has been removed.
  - Informed the Faculty Senate that he met with WTW architects from Pittsburgh on Wednesday morning, October 18, 2007, and they are in the process of finalizing the pre-plan and design for the new Student Union. Dr. Keppler and the committee have worked diligently with the architects, making significant progress.
  - Informed the Faculty Senate of his visit Wednesday, October 17, 2007 with a State Senate Legislature subcommittee regarding a new process, called the Capital Implementation Plan (CIP). It is an entirely different way for universities to request direct state appropriations for their master plans. Our master plan was accepted in May 2004. VSU has been working over the last sixteen months to respond to the new planning format.

- Discussed the Capital Implementation Plan classification that he presented at the State Senate Legislature Subcommittee meeting. These include:

1. **Renovation of the Second half of Nevins Hall Renovations** – \$4.5 million project is scheduled for 2009. There will be a decrease in administrative offices, and an increase in classrooms, labs, and faculty offices.

2. **\$47 million projected cost of North Campus construction of the Health Sciences and Business Center.** It is listed in the CIP for funding in 2011. Dr. Zaccari shared with the subcommittee that SPLOST revenues will assist with a parking facility across from North campus. Valdosta State will be able to use 300 of those parking spots at no charge.

3. **Renovation of Ashley Hall – \$9.4 million.** This will provide more instructional space and faculty offices. Also, Ashley Hall will provide an area for mainly Core classes in the central part of campus. The project is scheduled for funding in 2014.

- Stated that there is an area of 1.4 million square feet of buildings at Valdosta State University. In order to maintain buildings, VSU has an annual need of approximately \$4 million each year from MRR funding. Since many of our buildings are historical, there is a higher cost for upkeep. VSU received \$1.7 million this year from MRR funds.
- Informed the Faculty Senate of the increase in enrollment. In Fall 2006 there were 10,888 students. In the Fall 2007 semester, 11,303 students were registered - a net gain of 415 students.
- Discussed increases of faculty and staff salaries. After conducting the salary study last year, all faculty members that were below 85% were raised to 85%. Beginning January 1, 2008 faculty salaries will be increased to 94.5% of the Faculty salary model. Last year, due to the high number of staff members, we were not able to increase all staff salaries to 85%. Starting January 1, 2008, all staff will be increased to 85%. This is the first time Valdosta State University has given a mid-year salary increase for equity. Letters will be sent out to those faculty and staff members who will be affected by this change.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2007 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**  
<http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/documents/Minutes20Sept2007.pdf>  
<http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/index.shtml>

The minutes were approved.

3. New business

- a. Report from the Academic Committee – Louis Levy

No report. Dr. Levy acknowledged the 50% increase in Faculty Development funding, departmental operational budgets increases, and merit/equity increases. Dr. Levy thanked Dr. Zaccari, the Budget Advisory Committee, Strategic Research and Analysis, and everyone involved in making this happen. He also thanked the faculty for their productivity.

b. Report from the Committee on Committees – Jay Rickman

Dr. Jay Rickman informed the Faculty Senate that Gina Doepker has replaced Calandra Lockhart in Education for Faculty Senate.

Dr. Rickman and Mr. Joe Newton have come up with a way for electronic voting for the grievance election. The voting process will begin on October 25, 2007 and will continue for two weeks. An email will be sent and will contain a link for casting your vote. Dr. Rickman showed an example of what the ballot will look like. All eligible candidates will be listed on one page, instead of on a drop down menu. Faculty will need to vote for two people. Eligible voters can only vote once. Dr. Rickman informed the Faculty Senate that this voting process will reduce paper waste, and will be a more secure system of voting. The Faculty Senate voted and accepted this method of voting.

c. Report from the Institutional Planning Committee – Michael Noll

The current minutes and by-laws of the IPC are available at:

<http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/ipc/>

Dr. Noll informed the Faculty Senate that the IPC met on September 28, 2007 and will meet again on Friday, October 19, 2007. The previous meeting discussion included: 1) a new template for VSU web pages, 2) problems with conflicts of building cleaning schedules interfering with students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Noll believes there is a need for more flexible working hours, 3) the IPC will need to look at by-laws to show any updates.

Dr. Stephen Lahr discussed concerns he had regarding the web pages, such as not promptly updating new locations of departments that had relocated, as well as the need for a contact link on each departmental webpage. He also discussed certain health issues that need to be addressed concerning the bathrooms.

Dr. Zaccari asked Dr. Noll to clarify the reasoning for adjusting the by-laws. Dr. Noll stated that the IPC by-laws haven't been updated since 2003.

Christine James noted that anything the IPC suggests must be approved by the Faculty Senate and University Council. Christine also discussed the issues with the subcontracts custodial workers follow. Christine stated that custodial workers schedules and how they work are determined by these contracts. Christine believes it is a good idea for the University Council to review such issues.

- d. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee – Jane Whitehead

No report.

- e. Report from the Faculty Grievance Committee – Stephen Lahr

No report.

- f. Report from the Senate Executive Secretary – Christine James

**1. Educational Policies Committee recommendation in regard to Phil Gunter's question on Graduate Degrees/Doctoral Degrees and special exceptions policies for VSU current employees. (Attachment A, pages 3-5)**

Dr. Adler moved to amend the motion of the recommendation by adding a few words. The change is to read: "Any exception to this policy must be recommended by the Dean of the College, and by the Dean of Graduate School (in the case of graduate degrees) and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs". The Faculty Senate voted on the amendment and it was approved.

**2. New Faculty Senators Orientation:** Christine James will be available in West Hall 104 on October 29, 2007 between 11:45-12:30 for orientation of new senators, and any questions returning senators may have. In addition, the Faculty Senate Orientation PowerPoint includes a variety of information relevant to your required attendance at Faculty Senate meetings, and the duties of your committees. You can view it using Internet Explorer (the blue "e" on your computer's desktop) at <http://teach.valdosta.edu/chjames/FacultySenateOrientationCJ.htm>

Christine informed the Faculty Senate of an error in the meeting agenda. The New Faculty Senators Orientation is on October 29, 2007. Anyone who can not attend can email Christine with any questions at [chjames@valdosta.edu](mailto:chjames@valdosta.edu).

**3. In response to a question on the Technology Committee:** Committees can and should address issues on their own, in line with their charge. This means that **Committees need not wait for the Executive Committee to remand items to them;** although often the work of a Committee will involve remanded items. **The results of Committee work and any recommendations made by committees must be formally submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.** Likewise, **any changes to committee By Laws should be formally submitted to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate** – the Executive Committee must review any/all such changes, and especially in cases where suggested changes to a Committee's By Laws may come into conflict with the Statutes of the University or the Faculty Senate By Laws.

**4. Sick Leave Hours Bank:** Last year, members of the Faculty Senate expressed interest in donating sick leave hours time to a bank of sick leave hours, for the use

of faculty and staff members who have run out of sick leave time, to be determined by a committee administered through the Human Resources Office. To contribute to the sick leave hours bank contact Deborah Reaves at [dlreaves@valdosta.edu](mailto:dlreaves@valdosta.edu) or 333-5691.

Christine informed the Faculty Senate that the minimum donation for the Sick Leave Hours Bank is 8 hours.

#### 4. Old Business

None.

#### 5. Discussion

Dr. Bradley Bergstrom stated that a colleague had some questions about students withdrawing from classes. Christine suggested that the professor send the questions as a document to her through email, and that the Educational Policies Committee might have to answer such questions.

#### 6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

**ATTACHMENT A:**

To: Dr. Christine James  
Executive Secretary Faculty Senate

From: Dr. Lynn C. Minor  
Chair Educational Policies Committee

Date: September 25, 2007

Re: Recommendation for Clarification of Senate item #04-004

**Action Item:**

Request to clarify the Educational Policies issue from 2004 regarding “graduate degrees” or “doctoral degrees” being pursued by faculty members who are teaching in the same department in which they seek a graduate degree was remanded to the Educational Policies Committee on May 3, 2007. (Phil Gunter)

**Recommendation of Educational Policies Committee:**

On September 19, 2007, the Educational Policies Committee met and discussed the item remanded to the committee. A motion was made to change the wording in the previous senate item (#04-004) to include any degree by deleting the word “doctoral”. The committee recommends the item be revised as follows:

No full time faculty member of Valdosta State University will be awarded **a degree** by the college in which he/she teaches. Any exception to this policy must be recommended by the Dean of the College and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Rationale:**

The same issues that were present when a full time faculty member was allowed to be awarded a doctoral degree by the college in which he/she teaches would also be present for any other level of degree, graduate and undergraduate. Therefore, the committee recommends this policy cover all degrees.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Lynn C. Minor

Background information:

Phil Gunter question regarding Masters Degrees and Graduate Degrees. Phil has a faculty member who is interested in pursuing a new Masters while already holding a Doctorate in a different field. He wants to know if Masters degrees can be given without special exception appeals, if special exceptions and appeals are only done for Doctoral degrees, or if the person seeking a Masters must go through the special exceptions process.

Date: Tue, 01 May 2007 07:49:28 -0400

From: "Dr. Phil Gunter" <pgunter@valdosta.edu>

Subject: Re: Item #04-004

To: Christine A James <chjames@valdosta.edu>

X-Accept-Language: en-us, en

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US; rv:1.7.12)

Gecko/20050915

Original-recipient: rfc822;chjames@valdosta.edu

Dr. Phil Gunter wrote:

Christine, I'm having difficulty finding item # 04-004 passed by the senate on September 23, 2004. Can you direct me to where I might find the full text?

TX

Phil Gunter

Christine A James wrote:

Hi Phil!

Here is what I have, below, there's references to that numbered item in a couple of different minutes from 2004 (which are on the Faculty Senate website, but you'd need a sherpa guide or something...:-) Hope this helps you:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/facsen/Minutes/040318min.pdf>

(Item #04-004) Recommendation from the Educational Policies Committee -- Michael Schmidt:

No full-time faculty member of Valdosta State University will be awarded a doctoral degree by the college in which he/she teaches.

P. Gunter asked if there should be a distinction between full-time or tenured track faculty.

E. Clark noted that she had spoken with several deans across the area and most schools that have a doctoral degree allow an avenue for exception in extenuating circumstances.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation. After additional discussion D. Boyd recommended the issues be sent back to the original committee. B. Hull noted that a motion was on the floor. M. Meacham recommended voting on the motion. The motion failed. M. Meacham moved to remand the recommendation back to the original committee. The motion carried.

UPDATED later:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/vsu/facsen/Minutes/040923min.pdf> (next page)

1. (Item #04-004) Educational Policies recommendation concerning doctoral candidates. G. Macheski asked M. Schmidt to discuss recommendations from the committee. M.Schmidt explained that based on previous Faculty Senate discussion, an exception clause has been added that provides the protocol for exceptions to be reviewed based on merits of the petition. A motion was made to accept the policy and seconded. It passed 31 to 14.

Phil Gunter wrote:

Christine, I did come up with it. As you can see the recommendation started out as "a graduate degree" and ended up "a doctoral degree."

The doctoral degree was the concern at the time. However, now I have a faculty member who wants to complete a master's degree (she already hold a doctorate) in the department in which she teachers. I don't know if the language in item 04-004 can generalize or not. Perhaps, this is another item for senate consideration.

Thanks for your help.

Phil Gunter

\*1. Senate item # 04-004: \*

\*A request to develop a policy regarding tenure-track faculty who are pursuing a graduate degree in the department in which they are teaching. \*

\*No full time faculty member of Valdosta State University will be awarded a doctoral degree by the college in which he/she teaches. Any exception to this policy must be recommended by the Dean of the College and approved by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. \*

\*Faculty already accepted into, and currently enrolled in a doctoral program in which they are teaching, are exempt from this policy. \*

\*This policy will be effective immediately, upon approval by the Faculty Senate. \*



**Members and Visitors present:**

**R. M. Zaccari, President**  
**L. Levy, Vice President, Academic Affairs**  
**C. James, Executive Secretary**  
**R. Haptonstall, Parliamentarian**

\* Indicates the individual assigned a proxy

**Ex-Officio Senators:**

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

**College of Arts:**

**M. Elliott**                      **R. Haptonstall**  
**\*M. Kiyak**                    **S. Lahr**  
**P. McGuire**                  **K. Murray**  
**E. Nielsen**                   **\*M. Savoie**

**College of Arts and Sciences:**

**A. Aronson-Friedman (absent)**      **L. Bejarano**                      **B. Bergstrom**  
**\*R. Carter**                              **M. Davey**                      **\*C. Denizman**  
**J. Elder**                                  **C. James**                      **A. Kumar**  
**M. Kvande**                              **J. Laplant**                      **A. Lazari (absent)**  
**\*B. Mboup**                              **J. Merwin**                      **\*P. Moch**  
**M. Noll**                                  **C. Peguesse**                   **J. Rickman**  
**M. Smith**                                **T. Thompson**                  **J. Whitehead (absent)**  
**M. Williams**

**College of Business Administration:**

**B. Caster**                      **J. Muncy**                      **S. Tori**                      **\*F. Ware**                      **B. Williams**

**College of Education:**

**\*C. Barnett**                      **H. Brasell**                      **B. Browne**  
**G. Doepker**                      **\*M. Gorham-Rowan**          **R. Hannibal**  
**C. Hudson**                      **S. Kohn**                      **L. Leader**  
**Y. Mat Som**                      **L. Minor**                      **E. Ortlieb (absent)**  
**S. Raab**                              **S. Sanderson**                  **N. Scheetz**  
**C. Talor**                              **V. Whisler**

**College of Nursing:**

**\*S. Lauterbach**                      **\*J. Temple**

**Division of Social Work:**

**C. Tandy**

**Odum Library:**

**\*A. Bernstein**                      **A. Price**

**Proxies:**

**Michael Noll for Can Denizman**  
**Ruth Hannibal for Mary Gorham-Rowan**  
**Lynn Minor for Peggy Moch**  
**Mike Savoie for Mike Meacham**  
**Apryl Price for Alan Bernstein**  
**Eric Nielsen for Mike Savoie**  
**Bob Williams for Fred Ware**  
**Brad Bergstrom for Richard Carter**  
**Jay Rickman for Selen Lauterbach**  
**Patrick McGuire for Mark Kiyak**  
**Gina Doepker for Carol Barnett**  
**Luis Bejarano for Babacar Mboup**  
**Chere Peguesse for Jean Temple**

**Student Government Association (non-voting):**

**Johnathon Stroble (absent)**

**Visitors:**

**Bobby Flowers, COSA**  
**Kristina Cragg, Strategic Research and Analysis**  
**Cheri Tillman, OASIS**  
**Sheri Gravett, Academic Affairs**