



FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

Chairperson
Ronald M. Zaccari

Vice Chairperson
Louis Levy

Executive Secretary
Mike Meacham

Parliamentarian
John Samaras

MEMORANDUM

To: Ronald M. Zaccari, President

From: Mike Meacham, Executive Secretary

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2006

Subject: 2006 Annual Report of the Faculty Senate

Each senate meeting of the academic year 2005-2006 began with opening remarks by the President, keeping the Senators updated on campus issues and projects. After his remarks, the meeting was turned over to the Executive Secretary. During each meeting, the statutory committees updated the Senate on their activities since the previous meeting.

In addition, there were several major issues considered. The following presents a summary of these activities during each meeting of the academic year.

SEPTEMBER:

The President began the meeting by describing the new University Council in detail. The council was developed to promote better and faster communication and consideration among campus entities. He emphasized that it is developed as "an information conduit" meant to advise and update. It will not preempt any campus governing bodies. After his discussion, he introduced Christy Coons-Yates, who gave further information about the council. A written description of the council was added as an addendum to the agenda for the meeting. Both President Zaccari and Christy Coons-Yates answered questions and concerns from Senators about the new council. The President asked that we consider the council for one year and decide if it is a positive step for the campus.

OCTOBER:

President Zaccari volunteered to sign any recommendation of the Senate that he approves as policy during the Senate meeting in which it was passed. He will sign it along with the Executive Secretary.

The following recommendations were passed by Senate vote and signed into policy by the President.

1. A recommendation allowing students to withdraw from courses before midterm using banner. They will receive a "W". They may withdraw later, following procedures, and will be assigned a "WF" or "WP" by their instructors.
2. A recommendation supporting post tenure review every five years, with a stipulation that anyone who informs the university in writing that she or he will be retiring or resigning within two years be exempt.

Other recommendations were passed by the Senate and will need further action according to Senate by-laws and VSU Statutes.

1. A recommendation outlining procedures, should a recommendation be passed by the Senate, but remains unsigned and unanswered by the President beyond the indicated waiting period. This recommendation was signed by the President, was reviewed by the Executive Committee acting as a Committee on Revision, and will be voted on at the next General Faculty meeting in the fall of 2006 to determine if it is policy.
2. A recommendation changing the by-laws deadline for committees reporting their meeting schedules and their goals to the Executive Secretary from September 1 to October 1. The Executive Committee, acting the Amendment Committee, reported on the recommendation and it was passed unanimously and signed by the President as policy.

NOVEMBER:

The following recommendations were passed by the Senate and signed into policy by the President during the meeting.

1. A recommendation from the Minority and Diversity Issues Committee to change the word "handicapped" to "persons with disability" in all university documents.
2. A recommendation from the Education Policies Committee, removing the phrase "No change in a student's major program may be made during registration" from the Change in Major Program section of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.
3. A recommendation made during discussion by Senator Michael Noll to replace the current Ad Hoc Committee on Graduation with a permanent one.

FEBRUARY

After the President's remarks, the meeting was presided over by David Boyle, Past Executive Secretary, in the absence of Mike Meacham, who was at a conference.

The following recommendations were passed by the Senate and signed into policy by the President during the meeting. They were signed later that week by the Executive Secretary when he returned.

1. A recommendation by the Committee on Committees outlining reporting processes throughout the year by the Senate committees.
2. A recommendation by the Committee on Committees to adopt a new form for Senate committees to use to make their annual report.

MARCH:

After the President's remarks, the action taken by the Senate was to elect Christine James as the next Executive Secretary. She had been nominated by the Nomination Committee. She was elected unanimously.

APRIL:

The President presented a detailed description and analysis of the Faculty Salary Model. Its intent is to reduce compression, and increase salaries of those who are below national averages. After his discussion, further remarks and explanation were made by Marsha Krotseng from Strategic Research and Analysis. Both answered questions by the Senators about the new model.

A recommendation was made by the Environmental Issues Committee proposing a Recycling Policy on campus. It was passed by the Senate, but the President declined to sign immediately in order that he may work with the Budget Council and other campus organizations on the various costs and processes that must be available to establish this on campus. He will meet with these people and with members of the EIC to work on these issues.

MAY:

During the President's remarks, he gave awards to David Boyle for his long time work with the Senate and the University and to Mike Meacham for his work as Executive Secretary.

The following recommendation was signed into policy by the President.

A recommendation from the Educational Policies Committee outlining procedures and policies for Academic Probation and Suspension.

The majority of the meeting consisted of Annual Reports by the Standing Committees. VSU Statutes direct that all Standing Committees will be given a tenure of three years, at which time the Senate will vote to "remove, modify, or discontinue" each of them. While the Senate voted to continue all committees,

there was some question about the Student Services Committee, which did not meet this year or last, had no report, and no chair to discuss this. The President states he will initiate legislation to combine the Student Services Committee with the Student Activities Committee during the fall of 2006.

Several items are still being considered by committees. According to the committee's reports throughout the year, they have done considerable work or consideration on these issues. They are:

1. The Faculty Development and Research Committee is still considering a motion by Senator Michael Noll that funds for travel be given in a different manner. Presently, faculty may receive two \$500 rewards for travel each year, depending on funding. He proposed that it be changed so that people traveling closer may apply for smaller awards and those traveling further may apply for larger awards, still amounting to \$1000.00
2. The Educational Policies Committee continues working on a plagiarism policy.

JUNE:

At the President's Cabinet meeting on June 8, he announced that he had met with Brad Bergstrom, Chair of the Environmental Issues Committee, and they worked on aspects of recycling that VSU could begin without further consideration on costs, etc. These will be sent to the Executive Secretary and Executive Secretary, Elect.