



FACULTY SENATE
Est. 1991

Chairperson
Patrick J. Schloss

Vice Chairperson
Philip Gunter

Executive Secretary
Barney "Jay" Rickman

Parliamentarian
Vesta Whisler

MEMORANDUM

To: Patrick J. Schloss, President

From: Barney "Jay" Rickman, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary

Date: May 21, 2010

Subject: 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate convened seven times during the 2009-2010 academic year. Each Senate meeting began with opening remarks by President Schloss (or the Provost on March 25, 2010 when the President had to be away from campus) keeping Senators updated on campus issues and projects. During 2009-2010, President Schloss focused his remarks on budget developments as well as VSU's expanded enrollment and credit hour production. Because of the increases in student enrollment and credit hour production, the President reported that the Planning & Budget Council approved funds to hire more faculty to maintain VSU's current student-faculty ratio as well as to fund budget pools that advance the university (e.g., major scientific equipment pool). The President also explained the three-year process of converting temporary non-terminally degreed faculty to terminally degreed faculty that began in 2009-2010. The Senate was also kept informed on developments in the search for a new Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs that began when Dr. Levy announced his retirement in fall of 2009. During fall 2009, the VSU faculty also approved a revision in the *VSU Statutes* to replace the University Council with the Planning & Budget Council. President Schloss also reported to the Senate that the April 2010 SACS visit to VSU was so successful that there were no recommendations for corrective action.

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. At each meeting, the minutes of the previous Senate meeting and the minutes of the Academic Committee were presented and approved, with no more than minor corrections. In addition, several major issues were considered. The following presents a brief summary of the major activities during 2009-2010. (For more detail, please see the official minutes of each Senate meeting, <http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/index.shtml>.)

Major Issues

1. During 2009-2010, the Senate participated in a significant expansion of shared governance at VSU. Several Senate committees (e.g., the Library Committee, the Student Services Committee, & the Technology Committee) began serving as advisory groups for Special Funding Pools. The Senate also approved the formation of the new Facilities Advisory Committee as well as the new Campus Parking & Transportation Committee (both of these new committees have Senate and/or faculty representation).

2. During fall 2009, the Senate Executive Secretary gathered materials for a Senate web page that contains the most recent by-laws for all Senate committees.

<http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/CommitteeBylaws.shtml>

3. At its March 25, 2010 meeting, the Senate approved a new policy to limit course withdrawals.

4. At its March 25, 2010 meeting, the Senate approved moving the annual evaluations of administrators to an online format to reduce paper waste and save costs associated with assembling and distributing the paper packets as well as tabulating the responses received.

5. At its March 25, 2010 meeting, the Senate elected Peggy Moch to serve as the 2010-2011 Senate Executive Secretary.

6. At its April 15, 2010 meeting, the Senate endorsed a revised campus policy on Tobacco Usage to promote a tobacco-free environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

7. At its May 20, 2010 meeting, the Senate approved adding clarifying language to the Grade Appeals Process. <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/GradeAppeals.shtml>

Major Issues that will carry over into the 2010-2011 academic year

1. At its November 19, 2009 meeting, the Senate remanded to the Educational Policies Committee a proposal from Dr. Sheri Gravett for reconsideration of VSU's "30 year rule" for undergraduate courses.

2. At its November 19, 2009 meeting, the Senate remanded to the Educational Policies Committee a proposal from Dr. Richard Carter regarding whether VSU should return to an official "Advising Week" prior to the start of pre-registration or whether an "Advising Month" makes more sense for departments with Designated Advisors.

3. At its November 19, 2009 meeting, the Senate remanded to the Faculty Affairs Committee a Possible Revision to the Faculty Evaluation Model's Appendix C <http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/documents/FEMfinal.pdf> by renaming the Annual Faculty Activity Report and Action Plan (AFARAP) Section B. PROFESSIONALGROWTH AND PRODUCTIVITY to include the word "scholarship" because currently the word appears only once in Section B of the AFARAP.

4. At its April 15, 2010 meeting, the Senate extensively discussed a proposed policy from the Faculty Affairs Committee on guidelines for promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer for insertion in the *VSU Faculty Handbook*. A motion was passed to send the proposed policy back to the Faculty Affairs Committee to work with the President and the Provost to further clarify issues relating to Instructors, Lecturers, and the proposed policy on Senior Lecturers.

5. At its May 20, 2010 meeting, the Senate remanded to the Educational Policies Committee a proposal from the Athletics Committee regarding a university-wide policy on make-up assignments.

Reports of Senate Standing Committees

At its May 20, 2010 meeting, the Senate reviewed annual reports from the 11 Senate Standing Committees. All standing committees up for renewal were renewed (see Student Activities Committee below).

Academic Scheduling & Procedures: Chair Yahya Mat Som. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Academic Honors & Scholarships: Chair Michael Davey. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Athletics: Chair Cindy Prater. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Educational Policies: Chair Richard Carpenter. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Environmental Issues: Chair Clifford Lipscomb. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Faculty Scholarship & Research: Chair Jennifer Lambert-Shute. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Library Affairs: Chair Ranson Gladwin. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Minority & Diversity Issues: Chair Cristobal Serran-Pagan. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Student Activities: Chair Ofelia Nikolova. This committee was renewed in May 2010, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Student Services: Chair Anita Ondrusek. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.

Technology: Chair Jerry Merwin. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be reviewed again in Spring 2012.