

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2020, 3:30pm
via Zoom

Dr. JoEllen Pederson called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. The following members were on the call:

Dr. Robert Blaisdell	Dr. Lee Bidwell	Ms. Natalie Browning
Dr. Bill Burger	Dr. Roger Byrne	Dr. Karla Collins
Dr. Scott Cook	Dr. Jackie Daniel	Mr. Ian Danielsen
Mr. Donovan Douglas	Dr. Lily Goetz	Ms. Debra Harper
Dr. Brandon Jackson	Dr. Chris Labosier	Dr. Dina Leech
Dr. Virginia Lewis	Dr. Leigh Lunsford	Dr. Kat McClesky
Dr. Pam McDermott	Dr. Lisa Minor	Dr. Kelly Nelson
Ms. Anne Patterson	Dr. JoEllen Pederson	Dr. Jeannine Perry
Dr. Jill Perttula	Dr. Tom PlaHovinsak	Dr. Lissa Power-deFur
Dr. Tim Ritzert	Dr. Steve Samaras	Dr. Larissa Smith
Dr. Ryan Stouffer	Dr. Dorothy Suskind	Dr. Sarah Tanner-Anderson
Dr. Sarah Varela	Dr. Bennie Waller	Dr. Kristin Whitely
Dr. Andrew Yeagley	Teresa Irish, Recorder	

Also present were Dr. Bill Abrams, Jennifer Beach, Josh Blakely, Kathy Charleston, Dr. Kevin Doyle, Dr. Alix Fink, Dr. Kathy Gee, Susan Hines, Dr. Mary Lehman, Onie McKenzie, Vicki Palmer, Justin Pope, Dr. Shannon Salley, Dr. David Shoenthal, Dr. Pam Tracy, and Dr. Wade Znosko.

The meeting was called to order by Senate chair JoEllen Pederson at 3:30pm. The minutes from the September 3, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting were approved as submitted.

Dr. Bill Abrams presented the [EPC report](#). Action items were as follows:

- The new [GIS minor](#) passed 26-0.
- The [program change for Secondary Teaching Licensure, Grades 6-12, English](#) passed 27-0.
- The new [Literature Concentration](#) passed 26-0

A change to [FPPM Section V. E., Faculty Awards](#) was presented for discussion at the department level prior to a vote at the October 29 Faculty Senate meeting.

Lee Bidwell asked senators to look at her [written report from the September BOV](#) meeting and let her know if there were any questions.

Kevin Doyle, Leigh Lunsford, and Bennie Waller presented the [results of a survey conducted by the Senate Finance and Planning Committee](#) this summer. They noted:

- The approved budget can be found on the BOV web pages and in the Canvas course the F&P committee created.
- Fewer than 50% of faculty responded to the survey.
- The committee created buckets for the data from the survey.
- Provost Smith reported that she has had the preliminary results of the survey since summer and the data has informed some decisions made for AY 2020-21.
- Prevalent themes were keeping focus on teaching and learning, and saving on things versus people.

- Dr. Bidwell asked if there was any indication of how the data will be used by administrators. Dr. Doyle responded that they had been presented with the data, and data are available on the Canvas page for Senate Finance and Planning Committee.
- Lisa Minor asked if the extra cost for intersession is hurting or helping. Provost Smith says it's a function of the per credit hour tuition vs. the per semester cost, and it will be evaluated as we go along.
- Dina Leech asked about whether the Library's budget, cut by 35%, will be restored to include some important resources. Provost Smith said that budgeting is an ongoing process, and a priority is to restore faculty and staff salaries as soon as possible.

Justin Pope provided an efficient overview of the COVID-19 situation on campus. Overall, it's gone as well as we could've hoped for, and we are very grateful for everyone's hard work and compliance. Other points:

- Quarantine and contact tracing have worked and remain our focus.
- We are encountering the prevention paradox: it's hard to keep one's guard up for extended period of time. Our response to this has been to increase our communication with students about taking it seriously and the consequences attached to not taking it seriously. After two weeks of post-weekend increases in positive cases, we did not have similar reports this past Monday morning.
- We have funded and secured additional support for Matt McGregor in quarantining efforts. We added two CNAs to ARC, the quarantine dorm and we have recruited volunteers to keep the campus informed about quarantining and self-quarantining.
- Our student system has two components: adequate space, where we're fine right now, and hard work by the conduct and medical staff. We have seen no spread originating in classrooms, the dining hall, or the health and fitness center.
- Rapid response tests are more effective for symptomatic patients, and they can rule out COVID-19 to avoid the need to quarantine. Positive antigen tests count as COVID tests, and our dashboard includes any positive tests we're aware of. Approximately 15-25 people per day are being tested at the health center.
- VDH continues to feel like mass entry testing is bad and can lead to a false sense of well-being, but Longwood's plans for testing are always evolving.
- Mr. Pope thanked everyone. We are all working through our own things but also helping students. We have approached this fall with real humility and our goal is to flatten the curve.

Dr. Bidwell remarked that we need to stop the spread of rumors. Mr. Pope said anything faculty can do is appreciated. We have no plans to move fully online. In fact, after conversation with VDH we believe sending students home would not be a good thing to do to contain the spread. However, we recognize that keeping them here but going fully online encourages social gatherings.

Tim Ritzert asked how many students per day are tested. Mr. Pope reiterated 15-25, some symptomatic, some due to contact tracing. These numbers are not reported because the criteria are not specific enough and there are privacy concerns. However, the daily update includes all positives regardless of source.

Brandon Jackson asked if rapid test results are being used to release a student from quarantine. The answer is no. Dr. Jackson also asked if there are plans for student education to encourage 10 day mindfulness prior to going home for Thanksgiving. The answer is yes. We are striving to balance concerns for the physical and mental health of our students.

Sarah Varela noted that if we go fully online, our students wish to remain on campus and work online from campus spaces.

Dr. Pederson welcomed student representatives to the Senate, Debra Harper and Anne Patterson.

Onie McKenzie provided an overview of the [NSSE Pulse survey](#), which will help gauge students' perceptions of this semester. It takes three minutes to complete, it's for all degree seeking undergraduates, there is no cost to Longwood, and the students' invitation will come from Dr. Tim Pierson. We should have nationally benchmarked results by the end of November. Dr. Pederson will send an email to all faculty which includes the link to the survey. Ms. McKenzie asked that all faculty encourage their students to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Irish