

Closing Faculty Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2026

3:30 pm Blackwell Ballroom

Dr. Haley Woznyj called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming. It was determined that a quorum was present.

The [Opening Faculty Meeting Minutes](#) from August 22, 2025, were approved as submitted.

Report: Civitae Update – Dr. Heather Lettner-Rust, Director of Civitae

- Dr. Lettner-Rust began by thanking Faculty Senate for the opportunity to address the faculty. She posed the question of “How has Civitae afforded you and through what experiences?” and received positive responses from several faculty members. Dr. Lettner-Rust encouraged faculty to email her with more experiences.
- “Day of Dialogue”, a pilot event, will be held on Research Day. This will be for CTZN 110 students and will be the book-end to Symposium for CTZN 410 students. Heather Lettner-Rust, Isabel Fay, Kris Paal, and Pam Tracy have been constructing the day. Lee Bidwell, Whitney Kallenbach, Annette Rosado-Figueroa, and Erin Rierson have piloted the course. Coaches will work with the students on constructive dialogue and the understanding of citizenship.
- Next was the call for a new theme. Theme proposals should include:
 - a title of the theme (typically not more than 3 words)
 - the name of the proposer or proposers
 - a 250-word rationale for the theme
 - (optional) a short list of suggested readings, events, and/or bodies of artistic work that explores or expands on the theme, and is applicable to a multi-disciplinary community ~There will be a \$250 award for the chosen theme.
- Save the Date of August 13, 2026, for Undergraduate Professional Development Day.

Report: Student Assessment of Instruction Ad Hoc Committee Update – Dr. Haley Woznyj, Committee Chair

- Dr. Woznyj recognized the members of the Ad Hoc Committee members and provided a brief overview of the three-year project, which is nearing completion, to bring the general faculty up to date.
- She reviewed the committee’s charge to increase response rates, reduce bias, and align evaluations with best practices. Dr. Woznyj outlined the committee’s timeline and explained that the proposed instrument was developed using feedback from both

faculty and students. The instrument assesses students' classroom experiences in three areas: student effort, course design, and course atmosphere.

- In Spring 2025 Senate passed changes to the policy on use of SAI in P&T.
- A summary of changes to address feedback from Fall 2025 were:
 - Decrease length/time to complete
 - Enhance content and clarity of items
 - Enhance clarity and consistency of response scales
 - Increase applicability to online course
- Currently in Spring 2026, Faculty senators have given department feedback and the committee is currently holding focus groups with students to gather their feedback.
- The remaining steps will be to make edits based on recent feedback and propose a new form to Senate for a vote in April to be effective hopefully Fall 2026.
- Dr. Woznyj provided her email for any questions.

Remarks from President Taylor Reveley –

- President Reveley spoke on four topics: state budget, enrollment, philanthropy, and the future.
- **State budget:** Virginia's budget for next year has not yet been finalized. President Reveley is optimistic that it will be completed by the end of April before the end of the academic year. Determinations on pay increases, etc. for Longwood cannot be determined until the state budget is finalized.
- **Enrollment:** Longwood's enrollment continues to trend positively. Total student enrollment at the start of the academic year in August was 5,028. Longwood is one of only four Virginia institutions—along with JMU, UVA, and Virginia Tech—to experience sustained enrollment growth since COVID. While the higher education landscape remains challenging for many institutions, President Reveley noted that Longwood has strong momentum. He expressed appreciation to the faculty for their contributions to enrollment efforts, including participation in open houses and campus tours, and encouraged faculty to continue warmly welcoming prospective students and visitors.
- **Philanthropy:** President Reveley noted that philanthropy continues to make a significant difference for Longwood. He highlighted a historic eight-figure estate gift from former president Dr. Janet Greenwood, recognizing her lasting contributions to enhancing the student experience and strengthening the university's academic core. He emphasized that endowments provide institutional stability and support steady development during uncertain times. Longwood's endowment has grown from \$73 million in the fall prior to COVID to \$121 million entering this spring, helping to sustain excellence now and into the future.
- **Future:** President Reveley expressed strong optimism about the future, noting his belief that Longwood's commitment to human-scale connection positions the university as a leader in Virginia in providing meaningful, personal educational experiences.
- After opening the floor for questions, President Reveley thanked the group.

Remarks from Provost Larissa Smith –

- Provost Smith thanked faculty for attending the closing meeting during a busy point in the semester and shared reflections on the importance of community within Academic Affairs, across campus, and throughout Prince Edward County and the region.

She expressed appreciation to **Lee Bidwell** for her leadership of Faculty Senate and offered condolences to Lee and her family on the recent passing of her mother. She also thanked the **Faculty Senate Executive Committee** for representing a range of faculty perspectives, Faculty Senators for their participation in shared governance, **Sherry Reynolds** for facilitating Faculty Senate, and **Ashley Long** for coordinating the reception.

- **Academic Affairs:**

- **Accreditation:**

- In September, the **Board of Nursing** conducted a site visit and confirmed full compliance with all program requirements. Provost Smith congratulated the nursing faculty and all involved.
 - Later in September, a **CAEP** site team reviewed Longwood’s educator preparation programs, meeting with faculty, students, administrators, and external partners. The team identified no areas for improvement; a final determination from the CAEP board is expected next month. Thanks were extended to **Angela McDonald, Audrey Church, Tara McDaniel, David Shoenthal**, and others involved in teacher preparation.

- **Curriculum:**

- Two new programs—the **Data Science BS** and **Information Technology MS**—are currently under review with **SCHEV**. Provost Smith thanked the faculty who developed the proposals and emphasized the importance of curriculum review in maintaining institutional relevance.

- **Campus**

Provost Smith emphasized the connection between community and student retention and highlighted the following initiatives:

- **Teaching and Learning**

- CAFE, in collaboration with DEC and Greenwood Library, will host the **13th annual Teaching and Learning Institute, “AI, Literacy, and Human-Centered Practice,”** on **May 12**.
 - Sessions will address pedagogical approaches to generative AI, evaluation of AI-generated content, assignment-level guidance, and equity and accessibility considerations.
 - Faculty were reminded that **syllabi for summer and fall courses should include an explanation of AI use**, per a change passed by Faculty Senate earlier this year.

- **Advising**
 - Advising expectations outlined in the **FPPM** and initiatives under the **Post-Graduate Success Initiative** will receive focused review next fall.
 - The advising section of the FPPM has not been significantly revised in over twenty years; the review will consider effectiveness and recognition of advising work.
 - **Civitas**, a new advising platform, will be piloted by faculty ahead of a broader rollout to support advising interactions and student retention.
 - **Universal Design for Learning:**
 - Longwood continues work toward compliance with updated **Title II ADA digital accessibility requirements**, with an April 2026 “begin to comply” deadline.
 - Resources and tools are being coordinated to support accessible course materials and Universal Design for Learning principles.
 - A new **Canvas accessibility tool** is being purchased to assist faculty.
 - Seats remain available for the **ARO-sponsored Lunch & Learn on April 7**.
- **Regional**
- Provost Smith highlighted two examples of Longwood’s engagement with the broader community:
- **Lancer for a Day**
 - Created by **Patti Hastings**, the program brings Prince Edward County fourth-graders to campus for a college experience supported by Longwood student volunteers.
 - The program recently received the **Virginia Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators’ 2025–2026 School-University Partnership Project Award**.
 - **NSF Grant Proposal**
 - The **BRRIDGE** proposal (Building Rural Research Innovation through Development, Growth, and Entrepreneurship) aims to connect faculty scholarship with community-based research partners in Southside and Southwest Virginia.
 - The provost thanked **Jacob Dolence, Qifan Chen, Sanish Rai, Paul Hunter, Amorette Barber, Kathleen Kennedy, Jessica Bourdon, Alecia Blackwood, Ron Pike, and support team members Sheri McGuire, Jen Carne, and Alix Fink**.

Provost Smith noted that initiatives such as Lancer for a Day and BRRIDGE reflect Longwood’s mission to foster connection and community for the common good and underscore higher education as a public good.

She also highlighted the importance of the reception honoring newly promoted and tenured faculty and librarians.

Provost Smith recognized **Dean Roger Byrne** for his ten years of service as dean of Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences and noted his retirement will be celebrated at the end of April. Final on-campus interviews for the dean's search are underway, with an announcement expected in April.

Provost Smith concluded by thanking faculty for their contributions to students, colleagues, and the broader community.

There was no new business and no announcements were made.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Reynolds